

Stomatopod Crustacea of Vietnam: The Legacy of Raoul Serène. Manning, R. B., 1996. Crustacean Research, Special Number 4, 339 pp., 38 colour plates. ISSN 0287-3478.

This long-awaited tome will be very valuable for all students of Crustacea, as it brings together a great deal of data and information on a very interesting group. Expertly prepared by the current dean of stomatopod taxonomy, the highlight of the book must surely be the excellent series of drawings and 38 colour plates of 28 Vietnamese species. The colour plates are exquisite as well as very fine, displaying the natural colours and "essence" of the species splendidly. The history of this book is of interest as it stems from the work done by the late Raoul Serène, who is one of the undisputed all-time greats in carcinology. In fact, most of the drawings and colour plates, were originally commissioned by Serène for a monograph on Vietnamese stomatopods. These, as well as many photographs, data and specimens were eventually referred to Manning in early 1971. That the Japanese carcinological society has found the funds to publish this masterpiece after such a long hiatus is to their great credit.

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