

Preface

The Gulf of Thailand although relatively shallow with an average depth of 50 m, consists of a vast expanse of the Southeast Asian seas with approximately 350,000 km². During the last ice age in the Pleistocene, about 12,000 years ago, sea levels have been estimated as being about 100–150 m lower than at present, and the current Gulf of Thailand was then a part of Sundaland. This suggests that fishes currently occurring in the Gulf of Thailand have only relatively recently settled themselves in the Gulf from outside Sundaland. This has also led ichthyologists to hypothesize that no endemic and no unique fishes are distributed in the Gulf of Thailand. Hence, no comprehensive ichthyofaunal survey on the basis of voucher specimens in the Gulf has ever been carried out.

This shallow sea is important for Thailand's fisheries industry, with huge amounts of fishes caught from the Gulf on a daily basis. In terms of the Gulf's fisheries sustainability, it is important to know and record the fish diversity in order to protect the marine ecosystem and conserve the fisheries resources. During the International Training Program of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science, Tokyo (ITP of JSPS), two graduate students of Kagoshima University, Mr. Mizuki Matsunuma and Mr. Tomohiro Yoshida, and myself were provided with the opportunity to survey marine and estuarine fishes along the coast of northern Gulf of Thailand at the Kasetsart University for a total period of more than six months.

As a first step in understanding the fish diversity in the Gulf, this book provides color photographs of 372 commercial fish species belonging to 109 families collected from the Gulf of Thailand. Descriptions of morphology, coloration, size, and distribution are given for each species account. Editors and authors of this book hope that local fishermen, marine biologists, administrative officials, and lay people would find this book useful in helping to identify fishes up to species level.

Field surveys were mainly supported by ITP of JSPS. Collection building of specimens from the Gulf of Thailand was financially supported by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B, 24370041 and C, 23580259) from JSPS, a Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B, 19770067) from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Tokyo, JSPS Asian Core Program –Establishment of Research and Education Network on Coastal Marine Science in Southeast Asia, and the Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia Project of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto. Funds to publish this book were provided through grants from the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, and the Kagoshima University Museum, Kagoshima.

Hiroyuki Motomura

The Kagoshima University Museum
Japan

Editors

Tomohiro Yoshida – The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University, 1-21-24 Korimoto, Kagoshima 890-0065, Japan (e-mail: k5299534@kadai.jp)

Hiroyuki Motomura – The Kagoshima University Museum, 1-21-30 Korimoto, Kagoshima 890-0065, Japan (e-mail: motomura@kaum.kagoshima-u.ac.jp)

Prachya Musikasinthorn – Research Laboratory of Ichthyology, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand (e-mail: ffspecm@ku.ac.th)

Keiichi Matsuura – Department of Zoology, National Museum of Nature and Science, 4-1-1 Amakubo, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0005, Japan (e-mail: matsuura@kahaku.go.jp)

Authors (alphabetical order)

Hisashi Imamura – Laboratory of Marine Biology and Biodiversity (Systematic Ichthyology), Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, 3-1-1 Minatocho, Hakodate, Hokkaido 041-8611, Japan (e-mail: imamura@fish.hokudai.ac.jp)

Satoshi Ishikawa – Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, 457-4 Kamigamo-motoyama, Kita-Ku, Kyoto 603-8047, Japan (e-mail: oounagi@chikyu.ac.jp)

Seishi Kimura – Fisheries Research Laboratory, Mie University, 4190-172 Wagu, Shima, Mie 517-0703, Japan (e-mail: kimura-s@bio.mie-u.ac.jp)

B. Mabel Manjaji-Matsumoto – Borneo Marine Research Institute, University Malaysia Sabah, Locked Bag 2073, 88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (e-mail: mmm408@gmail.com)

Mizuki Matsunuma – The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University, 1-21-24 Korimoto, Kagoshima 890-0065, Japan (e-mail: k1139853@kadai.jp)

Keiichi Matsuura – See editors' details

Hiroyuki Motomura – See editors' details

Prachya Musikasinthorn – See editors' details

Ukkrit Satapoomin – Phuket Marine Biological Center, P O. Box 60, Phuket 83000, Thailand (e-mail: ukkrit@yahoo.com)

Koichi Shibukawa – Nagao Natural Environment Foundation, 3-10-10 Shitaya, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0004, Japan (e-mail: shibu@crux.ocn.ne.jp)

Siti Tafzilmeriam bt. Sheikh Abdul Kadir – South China Sea Reference Center and Repository, Institute of Oceanography and Environment, University Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia (e-mail: sititafzil@umt.edu.my)

Tomohiro Yoshida – See editors' details

Yusri Yusuf – Institute of Oceanography, University Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia (yusriyusuf@umt.edu.my); current address – Molecular Ecology Lab, Australian Rivers Institute, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland 4111, Australia





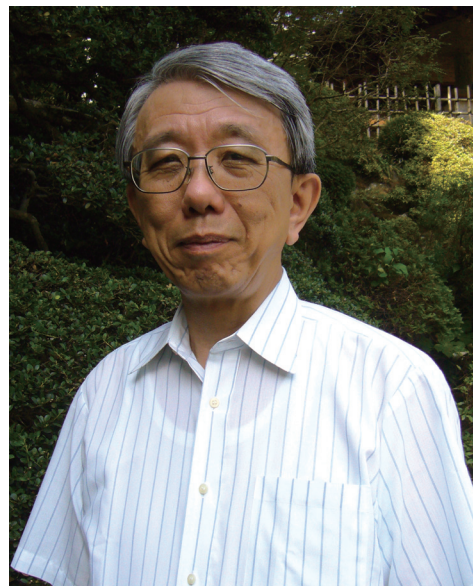
Tomohiro Yoshida PhD student, the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University, Japan



Hiroyuki Motomura Professor, the Kagoshima University Museum, Japan



Prachya Musikasinthorn Associate Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Thailand



Keiichi Matsuura Curator Emeritus, Department of Zoology, National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan