

Fishes of Terengganu

East Coast of Malay Peninsula, Malaysia

Edited by Mizuki Matsunuma, Hiroyuki Motomura, Keiichi Matsuura,
Noor Azhar M. Shazili and Mohd Azmi Ambak

Photographed by Masatoshi Meguro and Mizuki Matsunuma



National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Terengganu
Kagoshima University Museum, Kagoshima

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For bibliographic purposes this book should be cited as follows:

Matsunuma, M., H. Motomura, K. Matsuura, N. A. M. Shazili and M. A. Ambak (eds.). 2011 (Nov.). *Fishes of Terengganu – east coast of Malay Peninsula, Malaysia*. National Museum of Nature and Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and Kagoshima University Museum, ix + 251 pages.

ISBN 978-4-87803-036-9

Corresponding editor: Hiroyuki Motomura (e-mail: motomura@kaum.kagoshima-u.ac.jp)

Preface

Tropical seas in Southeast Asian countries are well known for their rich fish diversity found in various environments such as beautiful coral reefs, mud flats, sandy beaches, mangroves, and estuaries around river mouths. The South China Sea is a major water body containing a large and diverse fish fauna. However, many areas of the South China Sea, particularly in Malaysia and Vietnam, have been poorly studied in terms of fish taxonomy and diversity. Local fish scientists and students have frequently faced difficulty when trying to identify fishes in their home countries.

During the International Training Program of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (ITP of JSPS), two graduate students of Kagoshima University, Mr. Mizuki Matsunuma (the first editor of this book) and Mr. Masatoshi Meguro, were provided with the opportunity to survey marine fishes along the east coast of peninsular Malaysia at the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). Their faunal study succeeded through cooperative activities between Malaysian and Japanese ichthyologists, and resulted in this field guide, “Fishes of Terengganu – East coast of Malay Peninsula, Malaysia”, that includes taxonomic accounts with color photographs of 441 species belonging to 276 genera of 108 families. This field guide could not have been completed without the help of Prof. Noor Azhar bin Mohamed Shazili, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Internationalization) of UMT, Dr. Zainudin bin Bachok, Deputy Director of INOS, Mr. Yusri bin Yusuf, Lecturer of INOS and Mrs. Siti Tafzilmeriam bt. Sheikh Abdul Kadir, Research Officer of South China Sea Reference Center & Repository at INOS. Funds to publish this field guide were provided through grants from UMT and the National Museum of Nature and Science.

Keiichi Matsuura

Director of Department of Zoology
National Museum of Nature and Science



Preface

This field guide to the fishes of Terengganu was intended to assist local fisheries biologists in the identification of fishes in the coastal zone of Malaysia and the publication of this book is timely as there has always been a shortage of such guides in this region. This publication is the culmination of collaborative efforts of scientists from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and Kagoshima University, and is another significant milestone in the long history of collaboration between the two institutions. This effort would not have been possible without the support of Kagoshima University and their students who spent many months in Terengganu, and the support of the Institute of Oceanography and Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu for providing the laboratories, equipment and logistical support. Our sincere gratitude also goes to scientists from University Malaysia Sabah and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for their chapter contributions. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu especially appreciates the effort of Prof. Hiroyuki Motomura in leading the study in Malaysia from the very beginning.

This work shows that taxonomic studies of fishes in this region still have important contributions to be made, as a number of new species were identified in the coastal zone. We hope this field guide will be useful in assisting scientists in fish identification in the Malaysian context.

Noor Azhar bin Mohamed Shazili

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International Affairs)
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu



Editors

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

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

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)

Noor Azhar bin Mohamed Shazili – Academic & International Affairs, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia (e-mail: nazhar@umt.edu.my)

Mohd Azmi bin Ambak – Department of Fisheries Science and Aquaculture, Faculty of Agrotechnology and Food Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia (e-mail: ambak@umt.edu.my)

Authors (alphabetical order)

Aziz Arshad – Department of Aquaculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor D. E., Malaysia (e-mail: azizar.upm@gmail.com)

Mazlan Abdul Ghaffar – Marine Ecosystem Research Centre, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor D.E., Malaysia (e-mail: magfish05@yahoo.com; mag@ukm.my)

Hisashi Imamura – Laboratory of Marine Biology and Biodiversity (Systematic Ichthyology), Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, 3-1-1 Minato-cho, Hakodate, Hokkaido 041-8611, Japan (e-mail: imamura@fish.hokudai.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, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (e-mail: mabel@ums.edu.my)

Mizuki Matsunuma – See editors' details

Keiichi Matsuura – See editors' details

Hiroyuki Motomura – See editors' details

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 & Repository, Institute of Oceanography and Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia (e-mail: sititafzil@umt.edu.my)

Yusri bin Yusuf – South China Sea Reference Center & Repository, Institute of Oceanography and Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia (e-mail: yusriyusuf@umt.edu.my); current address – Molecular Ecology Laboratory, Australian Rivers Institute, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland 4111, Australia

Photographers

Masatoshi Meguro – The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University, 1-21-24 Korimoto, Kagoshima 890-0065, Japan (e-mail: fisheries_kago_mm7190@hotmail.co.jp)

Mizuki Matsunuma – See editors' details



Mizuki Matsumura, PhD student of United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University



Keiichi Matsuura, Director of Department of Zoology, National Museum of Nature and Science



Masatoshi Meguro, PhD student of United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University (*middle in front row*), **Siti Tafzileriam bt. Sheikh Abdul Kadir**, Research Officer of Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (*on extreme right in front row*) and Meii bt. Mohamad Norizam, lecturer of INOS (*between Masatoshi and Siti*) at Fish Taxonomy Workshop in Setiu Wetland, 2008



Left to right: **Hiroyuki Motomura**, Professor of Kagoshima University Museum, **Noor Azhar bin Mohamed Shazili**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International Affairs) of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), **Aziz bin Deraman**, Vice-Chancellor of UMT, **Mohd Azmi bin Ambak**, Professor of Department of Fisheries Science and Aquaculture, UMT and **Yahaya bin Ibrahim**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) of UMT