Thailand and JSPS-CREPSUM Program

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Financial supports

Coordinator & Partners

Former and present Thailand coordinators

- Dr. Charoen Nitithamyong (2003-2011)
- Dr. Thaithaworn Lirdwitayaprasit (2011-2015)
- Dr. Voranop Viyakarn (2015 - present)

Partners in Thailand

- Chulalongkorn University (Thailand Core Institute)
- Burapha University
- Kasetsart University
- Prince of Songkla University
- Rajamangala Institute of Technology
- National Science Museum
- Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC)
- Eastern Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center
- Environmental Research and Training Center (ERTC)

Research Projects
(funded by NRCT under Core to Core Program)
2020-2021

Research Project I

Experimental testing to suggest habitat suitability and technique to improve seagrass restoration success

- PI (THA): Dr. Anchana Prathep
- Co PI (JPN): Dr. Greg Nishihara

Research Project II

Coral cultivation using cryopreservation technique for coral restoration

- PI (THA): Dr. Suchana Apple Chavanich
- Co PI (JPN): Dr. Toshihiko FUJITA

Report of 2020 activities

New species of soft coral is named after Her Royal Highness Princess of Thailand

With the help from JSPS Japanese octocoral scientists, recently, 2 soft corals collected from Thai water have been found to be new species

One of new species, *Chironephthya sirindhornae*, is officially granted and approved to be named after Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand

This work was published in Zootaxa in 2020

This discovery was also in the newspapers and televisions in Thailand

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Article

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Two new species of the genus *Chironephthya* (Octocorallia, Alcyonacea, Nidaliidae, Siphonogorgiinae) from the Gulf of Thailand

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Report of 2020 activities (cont.)

Activities

Because of the COVID situation, all activities have been postponed, but some groups organized small group meetings and consulting through ZOOM and other online media

Publications

1 publication – new species of fish
1 publication – new species of octocoral
2 publications – new species of nudibranchs
1 publication – sea star genome
1 publication – marine bacteria
1 Chapter in a book – microplastics
1 Book – Coral conservation and restoration

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A new stargazer, *Ichthyscopus pollicaris* (Perciformes: Uranoscopidae), from East Asia

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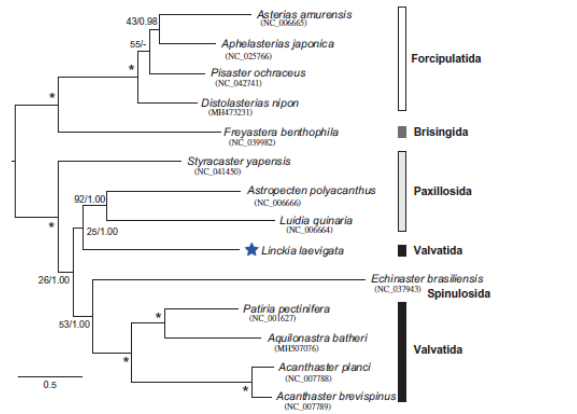

Figure 1. Maximum-likelihood tree based on the concatenated nucleotide sequence of 13 protein-coding genes of *Linckia laevigata* (LC505032) and 12 asteroid species. Nodal values are ML bootstrap support values (BS) and BA posterior probabilities (PP). An asterisk (*) indicates 100% BS and 1.0 PP. A hyphen (-) shows the branch not supported in the BA tree. The scale bar indicates branch length in substitutions per site.

20 Particulate-Plastics Distribution and Ecotoxicity in Marine Ecosystems and a Case Study in Thailand

Suchana Chavanich, Voranop Viyakarn, Somkiat Khokiattiwong, and Wenxi Zhu

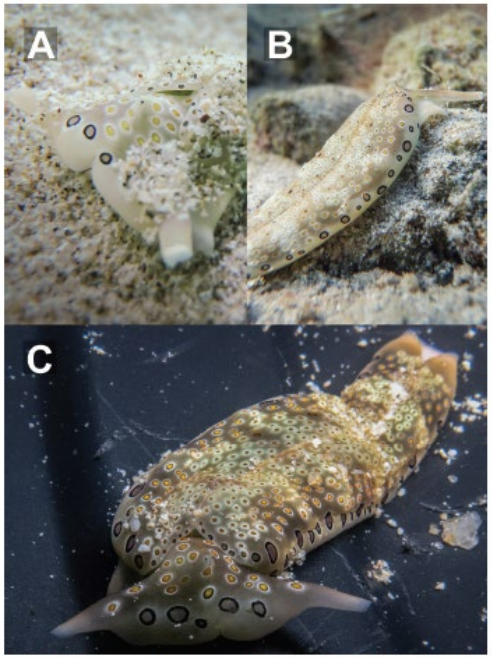

Figure 4. Living specimens of *Plakobranchus ocellatus* from Koh Tao. **A, B** close-up of head with retracted rhinophores and dorsolateral view, 25 mm **C** sequenced specimen, 32 mm.

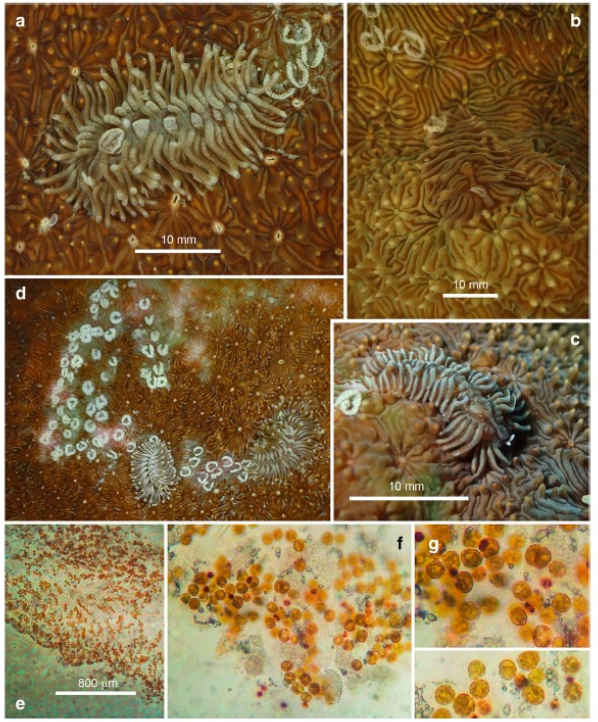

Fig. 1 *Phestilla vieti* Mehrotra, Caballer & Chavanich sp. nov. on *Pavona explanulata*. **a** Living specimen (28 mm long) in dorso-lateral view with low symbiont density; **b** Specimen (23 mm long) camouflaged among the coral; **c** Living specimen (17 mm long) in lateral view; **d** Two specimens with low symbiont density with their egg masses. *Durusdinium* sp. associated to *Phestilla vieti* Mehrotra, Caballer & Chavanich sp. nov.; **e** General view of a section of a single cerus; **f** *Durusdinium* sp. in the cerus matrix; **g** Details of the symbiont cells

JSPS CREPSUM

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Collaborative Research and Education Project in Southeast Asia for Sustainable Use of Marine Ecosystems