



Preface

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Taiwan is situated at the broader of tropical and subtropical region of western Pacific Ocean. The vast Pacific Ocean is at its east and the Taiwan Strait is separating the island of Taiwan from mainland China. The northern part connects to Okinawa Trough and East China Sea, and the southern part lies to South China Sea. Owing to the highly diverse coastal terrains and habitats, a rich diversity of marine creatures are created.

Over the last two decades, the studies on fish taxonomy have made a great improvement, especially the rapid development of molecular studies and barcode of life system. There are about 300–500 new species of fish officially described every year and more unnamed species were found during the field studies. Taiwan is also on this fast moving train, having nearly 100 new fish species published in the past decade and the frequency of finding new records is also quite high.

About 50 years ago, just like other biological studies, the studies of fish biodiversity of Taiwan started from the traditional morphology, and gradually cooperated with the biochemical, molecular and bioinformation. The history of fish life studies moved from adult fishes to the fish larvae and eggs. The collecting sites moved from markets and aquariums to intertidal and subtidal zones by using SCUBA diving; also fishing boats and research vessels were used to collected specimens from different ecological system in nearshore, ocean and deep seas.

As a result, the number of fish species increased rapidly over the past few decades. The number of valid species registered or confirmed in Taiwan Fish Database (<http://fishdb.sinica.edu.tw/>) is more than 3,200, nearly tenth of the total number of fishes in the world. For example, there are more than 90 species in Lophiiformes, 232 in Anguilliformes, 29 in Pinguipedidae, 71 species in Macrouridae, etc. Thus, Taiwan is truly an island of fish diversity. In addition to the natural geographical location and high diverse of habitats, the effort from the fish experts are also important factor to reach this achievement.

Previously, Hsuan-Ching Ho and colleagues conducted several jointed publications of the fish groups in Taiwan, including chondrichthyes [see Zootaxa, 3752(1)] and Anguilliformes [see Zootaxa, 4060(1), 4454(1)], which has resulted 31 new species and many new records. In present special issue, we invited our colleagues to contribute their results on taxonomy of different kinds of fishes collected from Taiwan and near areas.

Twenty-one authors have joined the publication of articles in this special issue, including Kunio Amaoka, Hiroshi Senou, Hiroyuki Motomura, Toshio Kawai, Nozomu Muto, Yusuke Hibino, Harutaka Hata, Akinori Teramura (Japan); Veera Vilasri (Thailand); Martin Gomon, Barry Russell, Ken Graham (Australia); and Kwang-Tsao Shao, Hong-Ming Chen, Chih-Wei Chang, Hsing-Hui Lee, Yung-Chieh Chiu, Song-Yu Tasi (Taiwan), Peter Psomadakis (Italy), and two editors, HH & KK.

There are totally 16 papers published, including 18 new species described in Stomiiformes, Lophiiformes, Clupeidae, Ophichthidae, Moridae, Carapidae, Paralepididae and Uranoscopidae. Moreover, Amaoka & Ho (this volume) reviewed the entire family of Bothidae. Koeda *et al.* (this volume) reviewed the species *Liopropoma aragai* and similar species collected from Taiwan and Koeda & Teramura (this volume) and Koeda & Muto (the volume) reported the most extreme records of *Tetragonurus pacificus* and *Pholis fangi*, respectively.

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