



## Tropical Fish Biodiversity: contributed papers from the 2023 International Symposium of Tropical Fish Biodiversity and Conservation

CHIH-WEI CHANG<sup>1,2,3</sup> & I-SHIUNG CHEN<sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Marine Ecology and Conservation Research Center, National Academy of Marine Research, Kaohsiung 806614, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Oceanography, and Institute of Marine Ecology and Conservation, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung 804959, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

<sup>3</sup>*National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, and Graduate Institute of Marine Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Pingtung 944401, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

✉ [changcw@namr.gov.tw](mailto:changcw@namr.gov.tw); <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0659-9582>

<sup>4</sup>*Institute of Marine Biology, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung 202301, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

<sup>5</sup>*Center of excellence for the Oceans, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung 202301, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

✉ [iscfish@gmail.com](mailto:iscfish@gmail.com); <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4190-7720>

The inaugural **2023 International Symposium of Tropical Fish Biodiversity and Conservation** was held at the National Taiwan Ocean University in Keelung, Taiwan, from November 3–4, 2023. The event featured 14 oral talks and 30 posters, with over 70 participants from both local and international institutions, including those from Japan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. Due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19, the symposium was conducted in hybrid format, combining in-person and virtual participation. Most of the overseas participants attended the entire program online.

The research content covers fish systematics, taxonomy, ecology, community research, molecular phylogenetics and phylogeography, mitochondrial genomics, and other relevant topics. We anticipated promising results from the 2023 Fish Symposium, and the organizing committee unanimously agreed to adhere to our initial announcements made at the Symposium. We aim to gather the best research work related to tropical fish biodiversity contributions and compile them into a special volume in *Zootaxa* before 2024. This has been a significant goal and task for all current invited guest editors.

After an extended process of submission and review following the 2023 symposium, we have finally selected 34 papers on fish systematics and phylogenetics for this special volume. These species describe one new genus and 29 new species (comprising 13 marine and 16 inland water fishes), and 11 new records of fish taxa from various countries, documented by numerous authors.

The **2023 International Symposium of Tropical Fish Biodiversity and Conservation** provided a great opportunity to share research and exchange creative ideas among many excellent specialists in fish biodiversity and conservation work, veterans and newcomers alike. It also offered new insights into the molecular phylogenetics of fishes. The symposium served as a great platform for encouraging further academic collaboration among fish scholars from all neighboring countries interested in Indo-Pacific fish biodiversity.

We sincerely express our thanks to all the contributing authors and the many reviewers who participated in producing this special volume. We are also very grateful to the Zootaxa team, especially the Chief Editor, Prof. Z.Q. Zhang, for their help during the editorial process. The symposium and the special volume were financially supported by the National Taiwan Ocean University, National Academy of Marine Research, Marine National Park Headquarters, Taiwan Biodiversity Research Institute, and Taiwan Research Institute on Water Resources and Agriculture.