

Editorial

Occasional Molluscan Papers: malacology in the Sundaland region

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“In many parts of Borneo, Celebes, or indeed any of the islands of the Oriental Archipelago, if you wander along a portion of the coast ... and observe with the curious eye of a Naturalist, you will notice various generic forms of Mollusks ...”

— Arthur Adams (*Narrative of the H.M.S. Samarang*, vol. 2, p. 488, 1848)

Situated at the crossroads of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Southeast Asia is home to a rich and diverse malacofauna. *Occasional Molluscan Papers (OMP)* began life in 2008 to fulfil the need for a publication outlet for papers on the malacology of the Sundaland region (see below). In 2010, a second volume was published. After a four-year hiatus, *OMP* is back with a new look and feel. Submissions will continue to be peer-reviewed, and articles will remain free-to-download. There will also be no change in the Journal's free-to-publish policy, a service to malacology in this region.

In the preceding two years, a major change has taken place in zoology—the advent of online-only electronic publication of new nomenclatural acts (including taxon names). The Journal aims to take advantage of this change (see *ZooKeys*, 219: 1–10; *Zootaxa*, 3450: 1–7). This move can only be a step in the right direction, allowing the dissemination of information to be near-instantaneous. Each article will now be published online (on the Journal's website) as soon as it is ready.

As before, the Journal's focus will remain the Sundaland region. In the marine realm, this region encompasses the Andaman, South China Sea, Sunda Shelf, Java Transitional, and Western Coral Triangle marine biogeographic provinces as defined by Spalding *et al.* (*BioScience*, 57: 573–583).

In the terrestrial realm, the region under consideration encompasses the political boundaries of the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), as well as Timor Leste.

The Journal will publish on all topics in malacology. Examples of such topics include taxonomy (including the proposal of new taxa), systematics, nomenclature, as well as type catalogues, bibliographies, taxa lists, nomenclators, topical bibliographies, observations, new records, biographies, and obituaries.

The Journal also welcomes objective and even-handed submissions on the role of molluscs in cultural, economic and religious spheres in the context of Southeast Asia.

We encourage all persons with an interest in the malacology of Southeast Asia to submit their manuscripts to us. We hope that the future will see *OMP* become a little less “Occasional”.

The first articles encompassing the third volume of the Journal will be published in December 2014 and will include papers on a range of malacological topics.

We wish you happy reading.

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