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METAZOAN PARASITES OF SOME OKINAWAN FISHES

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The parasite fauna of Okinawan marine reef fishes is surprising depauperate compared to other tropical and temperate areas. The great diversity in the fish fauna of this region does not seem to be matched in the parasites that associate with these fishes. We completely examined 289 specimens of 186 species of fishes, and partially examined 1013 specimens of 184 species, for a total of 1302 examinations of 293 fish species. The mean density of parasites was 25.0, and the mean number of species per host was 0.3. Eleven new species were described: *Anilocra clupei*, *A. prionuri* (isopods, Isopoda) *Cucullanus okinawanus* (roundworms, Nematoda), *Cterissa sakaii* (isopod), *Orbitacolax williamsi* (copepod, Copepoda), *Paracapillaria sesokoensis* (roundworm), *Pleopodias superatus* (isopod), *Pseudopecoelus sesokoensis* (flake, Digenea), *Renocila bollandi*, *R. kohnoi*, and *R. yamazatoi* (isopods). The number of individuals and species were: (121/1) Turbellaria, (2697/21) gillworms (Monogenea), (56/34) flukes, (0/0) soleworms (Asphidogastrea), (0/0) Cestodaria, (502/3) tapeworms (Cestoda), (115/9) roundworms, (17/4) thornyheaded worms (Acanthocephala), (1/1) leeches (Hirudinida), (3503/50) copepods, (0/0) lice (Branchiura), (197/6) isopods, (4/1) nudibranch (Mollusca). The first association between an adult mollusk and a fish host was described. Stomach contents, size, and occurrence records were reported for some of the hosts. We have published 16 papers describing these examinations. A complete Host-parasite checklist will be provided in Galaxea. This work will be combined with our similar studies in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico to obtain a comparison of parasite faunas in different seas. We are unaware of any other direct comparisons with this important topic.

Proceedings of the International Symposium on Biodiversity and Adaptive Strategy of Coral Reef Organisms, Sesoko Marine Sciences Center, Okinawa