

Observations of *Acanthaster* Population around Sesoko Island, Okinawa¹

M. NISHIHIRA² and K. YAMAZATO²

Abstract

The second abnormally high concentration of *Acanthaster* population was observed in the mid-western coast of Okinawa in 1969. Although the high-density area extended northwards, the concentration is still observable in roughly the same part of the island. Some parts of the coral reefs attacked are presently almost free from living corals. Observations on the ecological distribution, density, size distribution, etc., of an *Acanthaster* population was carried out in April and May 1972 around Sesoko Island, located 500 m away from Okinawa Island. The change in the population one year after that will be reported with a note on the change observed in the devastated area. Some aspects of the biology of *Acanthaster* will also be reported.

¹ Abstract of paper presented at a Symposium on the "Biology and ecology of the crown-of-thorns starfish, *Acanthaster planci* (L.)," Pacific Science Association Second Inter-Congress, University of Guam, May 23-24, 1973.

² Department of Biology, University of the Ryukyus, Naha, Okinawa 903 Japan.
Micronesica 9(2):183. 1973 (December).