

Scyphozoa and Cubozoa of Guam

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Abstract—The jellyfishes of Guam are poorly known. This preliminary report comprises at least three species of Cubozoa and six species of Scyphozoa. The discovery of additional species is probable.

Introduction

The Scyphozoa and Cubozoa of Guam are poorly known. At present, there exist no specific studies on these groups in this area, so we must rely on the astute observations and collecting efforts of local biologists for the present report. Specimens referred to herein are deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History and California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

Jellyfish taxonomy is still in a state of flux as we gain greater understanding about species delimitations and recognition criteria. Therefore, some of the species covered in this chapter are identified only to the generic level, even though species names may have been previously assigned by non-specialists.

The Philippine Islands are one of the world's richest areas for medusan diversity, with no less than 38 species of Scyphomedusae and 7 species of Cubomedusae reported (Mayer 1917, Light 1921, Gershwin unpublished). Thus, the number of species documented from nearby Guam is likely to climb with additional attention. In general, scyphozoans and cubozoans are relatively large and colorful; thus their conspicuous nature makes them easy to find but unfortunately not always so easy to identify! It is difficult to estimate how many taxa remain unsurveyed, but it seems plausible that a couple of dozen or more deep sea taxa, and maybe another 20-30 occasional epipelagic or neritic visitors, will eventually be reported.

Results

Three cubozoans and six scyphozoans are recorded here based on newly collected material, photographic records, and records from the literature (Table 1). All but one are new records for Guam, although three of the species were previously recorded from Saipan.

Table 1. Cubozoa and Scyphozoa of Guam

Order: family indicated in capitals. All records from Guam unless otherwise noted.

Cat. #: vouchers specimens in CASIZ: California Academy of Sciences, Invertebrate Collection; UF: Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville; UGI: University of Guam Invertebrate Collections; USNM: US National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC.; ZSMH: Zoologisches Institut und Zoologisches Museum der Universitaet, Hamburg

Photo #: Photo vouchers are by Gustav Paulay (GP numbers, housed at UF) and Robert F. Myers (RFM), available at: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/reefs>, and in the Marine Biodiversity of Guam CD-ROM copublication.

Taxon	Cat. #	Lit. cit.	Photo #
CUBOMEDUSAE: CARYBDEIDAE			
<i>Carybdea sivickisi</i> Stiasny, 1926	CASIZ #162636, UF 351		RFM
<i>Carybdea</i> cf. <i>grandis</i> Agassiz & Mayer, 1902	UF 357		
<i>Carybdea grandis</i> Agassiz & Mayer, 1902	ZSMH uncat.	Thiel 1928 (Saipan)	
<i>Carybdea</i> cf. <i>rastonii</i> Haacke, 1886	UF 356		
RHIZOSTOMEAE: CASSIOPEIDAE			
<i>Cassiopea</i> sp.	USNM uncat.	Davis 1999	
<i>Cassiopea ornata</i> Haeckel, 1880		Uchida 1947 (Saipan)	
RHIZOSTOMEAE: MASTIGIIDAE			
<i>Mastigias papua</i> (Lesson, 1830)	CASIZ #162634, UF 350	Uchida 1947 (Saipan)	RFM
RHIZOSTOMEAE: CEPHEIDAE			
<i>Cephea cephea</i> (Forsskål, 1775)			GP359-34
SEMAEOSTOMEAE: ULMARIIDAE			
<i>Aurelia</i> sp.			RFM 182b
CORONATAE: NAUSITHOIDAE			
<i>Nausithoe racemosa</i> (Komai, 1936)	UF 50, UGI 6607		GP756-33
<i>Nausithoe</i> sp. 2	UF 134		GP866-27

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