

DIVERSITY OF CEPHALOPODA FROM THE WATERS AROUND TAIWAN

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ABSTRACT

Based on a new collection of cephalopods made during the period January 1995 to date, the list of cephalopods known to occur in Taiwanese waters, including the Taiwan Strait, has increased from 32 species to 64 species, belonging to 28 genera, 14 families, including several species of sepiids and octopods new to science. The most speciose families are the family Sepiidae with 15 species, Loliginidae with 7 species, and Octopodidae with 22 species. The fauna is largely in common with that of the neighbouring areas of the East China Sea and the South China Sea. When comparing the present result with previous reports, it is evident that the proportion of newly recorded taxa is large. At least 30 out of the 64 valid taxa reported are new records (46.9%) and only 33 out of 63 nominal species previously reported are valid (52.4%). As the present study is still in its early phase, it is expected that more taxa will be found when more habitats are sampled. Evidently our current knowledge of cephalopod fauna of the area does not reflect the true diversity. Reasons for this disparity are examined. Using Taiwan as an example, recommendations are made to improve our knowledge of the cephalopod fauna of the TMMP (Tropical Marine Mollusc Programme) area.