

MALACOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE RUMPHIUS BIOHISTORICAL EXPEDITION TO AMBON (1990)

Strack, Hermann Leberecht
Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum
PO Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

In 1990 a marine biological expedition was carried out at Ambon Island (Moluccas, Indonesia). The primary objective of the expedition was to collect and study marine invertebrates from the localities mentioned by Rumphius in his book „d'Amboinsche Rariteitkamer“ (1705). During six weeks a considerable collection of marine molluscs was gathered in about 40 localities. Some preliminary results concerning the malacofauna of Ambon are: Rumphius was a good observer and his locality data are accurate. This became clear when several species could only be found in the localities indicated by Rumphius. This was the case for *Dentalium elephantinum* (L.), *Chicoreus ramosus* (L.), *Phalium glaucum* (L.) and several other species. The mollusc fauna of Ambon is remarkably rich. Part of the expedition material (already studied or currently under study) yielded the following numbers of species: Muricidae 58 species, Pectinidae 17 species, Nassariidae 47 species, Naticidae 27 species, Mitridae and Costellariidae 96 species, Rissoiinae 45 species, Terebridae 25 species and Polyplacophora 27 species. Unfortunately numerous mollusc groups remain unstudied by the lack of qualified specialist. Several new species were found and many species appeared to have a much wider geographic distribution than was known. *Callistochiton generos* (Iredale & Hull, 1925) was thought to be an endemic species from Queensland, Australia. *Nassarius maccauslandi* Cernohorsky, 1984 was only known from Fiji. *Cryptoplax planus* Ang, 1967 and *Morula parva* (Reeve, 1846) were only known from the type material from the Philippines. *Tetrastoma (Costastoma) serana* (P.J. Fischer, 1927) was only known from fossil (Pliocene) material, but many living specimens were found during the expedition.