Short communication:

**OCCURRENCE OF NAUTILUS POMPILIUS IN THE EASTERN PART OF INDIAN OCEAN - ANDAMAN SEA**

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**ABSTRACT**

A dead *Nautilus pompilius* with the soft body in undecayed condition has been encountered in the Andaman Sea. The finding is the first record of its kind and gives circumstantial evidence that *Nautilus* is living in this area.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Sawata *et al.* (1983) concluded that the *N. pompilius* shells found on a beach of the Tarutao Island might have originated in the Indian Ocean-Andaman Sea and not from the Philippine sea area as suggested by Toriyama *et al.*, 1965.

In order to provide stronger evidence, a reward was offered for the discovery of living *Nautilus*. However, live specimens have not been obtained but a *Nautilus pompilius* with soft body was handed over to the junior author by a sea gypsy in March 1992. The *Nautilus* (Fig. 1) was found floating dead near the Raja Island off the Phuket coast (Fig. 2), southern Thailand. This finding gives circumstantial evidence that *N. pompilius* occur in this area and indicated that *N. pompilius* shells found on the beach of Tarutao, Langawi and Penang islands should have come from the eastern part of Indian Ocean-Andaman Sea, rather than from the Philippine sea area.

![Figure 1. Nautilus pompilius collected near Racha Noi Island. The length of a line from the adoral end of the black band to the umbilical center (DO) is 5.1 cm. The soft body weight was 552 g.](image)

**REFERENCES**


Figure 2. A. Map shows location of living *Nautilus* specimen near Rach Island.
B. Potential *Nautilus* habitat ( ), and transportation routes ( ) suggested by Toriyama et al., 1965.
( ▼ living *Nautilus* obtained; ▲ *Nautilus* shell obtained; ▽ information on living *Nautilus* obtained but not specimen obtained)