OCTOCORALS FROM THE NORTHERN REGION OF STRAITS OF MALACCA.

Mahadi Mohammad¹ Şazlina Md Salleh², Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai¹ & Zulfigar Yasin¹

¹School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.
²Centre for Policy Research and International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.
Objective

To provide a checklists of Octocorals from the Northern Region of Straits of Malacca
BOMBING: KEEP CLEAR WARNING

PULAU BIDAN AND PULAU SONG SONG AIR FIRING AND BOMBING RANGE 1959-1962
by Dennis Allnutt, ex Cpl Armourer

As an armourer at Butterworth one of our duties was to serve time out at the bombing ranges. This usually was for a two week period; we would depart from RAF Glugor marine unit and set course for Bidan Island. The trip usually took 2 hrs.

Bidan Island was the main base for the ranges. The accommodation was very good with a well-equipped games room, badminton court and a well-stocked bar to quench that never-ending thirst.

Power on the island was supplied by two 12 cylinder Paxman Diesel engines. This was ample power to keep the Tiger beer chilled. Also on the island was a Tamil fishing village that shared our power for their ice-making machine.

One of the daily interests on Bidan was to watch the fisherman take out the half mile net. The net was trawled out in a horseshoe shape and then, to much chanting, was hauled in from the beach. We would all stand around as the net exposed its catch on the edge of the beach, all kinds of marine life ended up in the net even turtles and deadly jelly fish.

Our duty each day was to man the quadrant sighting tower on Song Song and change the hessian strafing targets on the sand spit. These targets were mounted between poles and were approx 20ft square. We had to change them between firing sorties and a favourite trick by the Aussie Sabre pilots was to wait for us to be half way up the pole then they would do a strafing run while we were suspended in midair with us thinking someone had given the all clear for a live run. Thank goodness for khaki shorts! We had a sandbag shelter to sit in during air firing sorties and you could hear the 30mm shrapnel slicing through jungle as we cowered in our shelter with our first aid kit and a crate of Tiger beer, the latter to kill the pain in case we got shot.
Sampling Sites
Class Anthozoa

Subclass Hexacorallia
- Order Actinaria (sea anemones)
- Order Scleractinia
- Order Zoanthiniria (Zoanthids)
- Order Corallimorpharia (mushroom anemones)

Subclass Ceriantipatharia
- Order Antipatharia (black & wire corals)
- Order Ceriiantharia (tube anemones)

Subclass Octocorallia
- Order Helioporacea (blue coral)
- Order Alcyonacea
- Order Pennatulacea (sea pens)
OCTOCORALLIA
Taxonomy of Octocorallia is currently based on morphology of the:

1- colonies
2- structure of the axes,
3- the sclerites, and
4- colouration: colonies and sclerites
SCLERITES
**Verrucella** Mine Edwards & Haime 1857

Family: Ellisellidae

Genus: *Verrucella*

Distribution: Tukun Terendak
Menella Gray, 1870

Family: Plexauridae
Genus: Menella
Distribution: Tukun Terendak
**Junceella Valenciennes, 1855**

Family: Ellisellidae  
Genus: *Junceella*  
Distribution: Pulau Songsong and Pulau Segantang
*Sinularia leptoclados* Ehrenberg, 1834

Family: Alcyoniidae  
Genus: *Sinularia*  
Species: *S. leptoclados*  
Distribution: P. Songsong and P. Payar
Klyxum Alderslade, 2000

Family: Alcyoniidae
Genus: Klyxum
Distribution: P. Payar
## FINDINGS

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<th>Hard coral</th>
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<td><strong>Dominant</strong></td>
<td><em>Pocillopora &amp; Acropora</em></td>
<td><em>Sinularia leptoclados</em></td>
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<td><strong>Rare</strong></td>
<td><em>Leptoria sp.</em>, <em>Alveopora sp.</em> &amp; <em>Lobophyllia sp.</em></td>
<td><em>Menella sp.</em></td>
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FAMILY ALCYONIIDAE
4 genus
11 species
FAMILY NEPHTHEIDAE
4 genus
9 species

Dendronephthya binongkoensis
Dendronephthya klunzengeri
Dendronephthya minima
Dendronephthya quadrata

Dendronephthya roemeri
Dendronephthya weberi
Capnella imbricata
Litophyton arboreum

Nephthea striata

Pulau Pemanggil, Johor
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