



BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

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Hosted by A/P Darren Yeo / Dr Maxine Mowe

Biodiversity of Diaptomid Copepods (Copepoda, Calanoida, Diaptomidae) from the lower Mekong River Basin



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About the Speaker

Professor La-orsri Sanoamuang received a B.Sc. in Biology from Khon Kaen University in 1977, a M.Sc. in Marine Biology from Chulalongkorn University in 1981 and a Ph.D. in Zoology from University of Canterbury, New Zealand, in 1992. In 1985 she attended a 9-month training course on Limnology, hosted by University of Vienna, Austria. In 1993, she joined a 6-month post-doctoral training course in Freshwater Zooplankton, hosted by Professor Henri Dumont, University of Ghent, Belgium. She is currently appointed as Dean of Khon Kaen University International College and Director of Applied Taxonomic Research Center, Faculty of Science, Khon Kaen University.

Her research interest includes biodiversity, systematics, ecology and aquaculture of freshwater zooplankton and invertebrates in Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar. She discovers and describes 63 new species of rotifers, cladocerans, copepods, fairy shrimps and clam shrimps. She has so far published 108 research articles in international peer-reviewed journals (ISI and Scopus Databases).

An updated list of the calanoid copepods from the lower Mekong River Basin (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) is presented, based on 3,000 samples collected during 1993-2018. Of the 50 taxa identified, 41, 21, 26 and 15 have to date been recorded from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, respectively. Among these, 24 species are new to science and members of genera *Arctodiaptomus* and *Paradiaptomus* are reported for the first time from Southeast Asia. Eight species are endemic to Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Nine species are endemic to Thailand. Eight or 16% of recorded species have been recorded also from southern China.

Interestingly, *Allodiaptomus nongensis* has been recorded only from a tributary of the Mekong River in central Laos. This Laotian endemic copepod is referred to by local people as "Pa Khayong", which means tiny fish. Since high densities of this copepod can be found in the dry season (December until May), several man-made copepod traps are placed by local people along the river banks in Muang Nong District. Large concentrations of individuals (body length: ~1 mm) belonging to this newly described species are harvested and consumed by these villagers. Additional information about this species and the copepod fisheries by local people in this area is also presented.