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Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos volume 29

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SCIENTIFIC EDITORS

Virginie Héros and Philippe Bouchet are curators of molluscs at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris.

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All three have been involved in the exploring expeditions, from the work at sea to networking worldwide with molluscan taxonomists, that have resulted in the discovery and description of over a thousand new species thus far.

THE BOOK

The deep benthos of tropical seas is one of the last frontiers of biodiversity exploration, and a major reservoir of species still unknown to science. The French National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) and Institute for Research for Development (IRD) are conducting an unprecedented series of research cruises in the South and West Pacific, totalling so far over 5,000 deep-water sampling stations in remote and seldom-visited island groups. The Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos series, a continuation of the former Résultats des Campagnes Musorstom, showcases some of the biodiversity discovered through contributions from experts worldwide.

The present volume includes six major taxonomic papers from experts of polyplacophoran, bivalve and gastropod molluscs, together documenting 213 species –137 of which are new to science–, highlighting the extraordinary biodiversity of the South and West Pacific, in particular the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia. An introductory chapter highlights the role of citizen scientists in describing the molluscan diversity of the world, who are responsible for 57% of the new species descriptions, and the present volume is no exception.



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