

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Naga Expedition, from 1959 to 1961, was an oceanographic investigation of the marine biota and its environment in the Gulf of Thailand and the part of the South China Sea lying to the east of South Viet-Nam. The expedition was sponsored by the governments of South Viet-Nam, Thailand, and the United States of America, and was carried out under the leadership of the late Dr. Anton Brunn, Captain James L. Faughn, and the Naga Coordinating Committees.

During the period from October 1959 to February 1961, biological samples were collected during five cruises in the Gulf of Thailand and five in the western portion of the South China Sea, in the area adjacent to South Viet-Nam. The plankton samples used for this study were obtained from the samples collected by using a plankton net of 1-meter mouth diameter, 0.65 mm. mesh aperture width, with flow meter mounted in the mouth, towing obliquely to a depth of about 150 meters (or to within 10 meters of the bottom where the depth of water was less than 150 meters).

With the aid of the Folsom's plankton splitter, the volume of most of the plankton samples collected was divided into one half or in some cases, 1/8, for sorting of the hyperiid amphipods and separated them into each family.

A total of six families of the hyperiid amphipods

from the Naga samples has already been summarized (Sudara, 1971), thus three families, Phrosinidae, Platyscelidae and Pronoidae, have been selected out of the fourteen families left, from two divisions of the superfamily for this study.

The specimens of these three families were worked out according to the following procedure:

1. Identify to species.
2. Study the synonyms of each species.
3. Draw figures and write detail description and world distribution of each species.
4. Count the numbers of each species found in the sample of each station.
5. Calculate the number of each species to the number found in 1000 cu.m. of water, in order to study the pattern of distribution.
6. Discuss the distributional patterns of every species in different seasons in relation to current patterns and also present maps of distribution of some species.
7. Calculate the average densities per 1000 cu.m. of water for different cruises for every species and present in the form of graphs of the seasonal abundance.

From 3 families of the hyperiid amphipods studied, 8 genera and 13 species are here described.