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A SMALL COLLECTION OF GASTROPODS AND BIVALVES FROM THE ANAMBAS AND NATUNA ISLANDS, SOUTH CHINA SEA

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***ABSTRACT.* –** Ninety-one species of gastropods and 43 species of bivalves were collected during a week-long expedition to the Anambas and Natuna Islands in the South China Sea. The majority of specimens were from sheltered intertidal habitats including coral reefs, rocky shores and mangroves. SCUBA and bottom trawls augmented collecting efforts. Based on the number of localities where each species was collected, *Nerita undata* (Neritidae), *Clypeomorus batillariaeformis* (Cerithiidae), *Thais distinguenda* (Muricidae) and *Thais squamosa* (Muricidae) were the most common and widespread intertidal gastropods. The epibyssate *Barbatia foliata* (Arcidae) and the sand-dwelling intertidal *Atactodea striata* (Mesodesmatidae) were the most common and widespread bivalves based on the frequency of occurrence at each sampling site. Molluscs from subtidal soft bottom substrata and specialized habitats were poorly represented. Freshwater species were also largely lacking.

***KEY WORDS.* –** Gastropod, bivalve, Anambas, Natuna, South China Sea.

INTRODUCTION

The Anambas and Natuna archipelagos in the South China Sea comprise two isolated groups of Indonesian islands on the Sunda Shelf located midway between the Malay peninsula and the island of Borneo. The two archipelagos consist of more than 50 rather hilly islands of which the largest is Pulau Bunguran that rises to about 1000 metres above sea level. The two groups of islands are historically well-known to seafarers plying the Singapore-Hong Kong route. Recent discoveries of oil and natural gas in the Natunas (Anonymous, 1998; Suhartanto et al., 2001), and regular dive ecotours to the vicinity of the Anambas Islands from Singapore have also raised public awareness of the existence of these islands.

However, the marine flora and fauna of the Anambas and Natuna islands in the shallow waters of the South China Sea remain largely undocumented. Several published accounts concerning the animals of the islands are, to our knowledge, all land based (Miller, 1901; Oberholser, 1917, 1932; Smedley, 1928; Chasen, 1934, 1935). The often stated assumption is that the composition and diversity of marine organisms living in the coastal zone of Southeast Asia will not differ significantly from those of the other islands in the Indo-West Pacific Province. This study gives an account of the common gastropods and bivalves collected during a short eight-day expedition to the main islands in March 2002. While the necessarily short duration of the expedition and the small number of non-specialist participants imposed a significant limitation on sampling, and hence the interpretation of data, the species list generated is probably the first of its kind. It is hoped that the omissions from the list will provide impetus for further biological exploration and documentation of molluscan diversity in this part of the world.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Of the eight coastal localities sampled in the Anambas and Natuna archipelagos, five were centred around Pulau Jemaja, Mubur, Siantan and Bajau in the Anambas (Fig. 1). The remaining three collections were carried out either on or near Pulau Laut, Pulau Panjang and Pulau Batu Bilis in the vicinity of Pulau Bunguran (Greater Natuna Island) (Fig. 1). No collections were made on Pulau Midai, Pulau Subi Besar and Pulau Serasan although these islands are considered to be part of the Natuna Archipelago. Haphazard sampling was carried out intertidally by hand during approaching spring low tides for a period of eight days between 12 and 19 March 2002. At the same time, day and night SCUBA dives were

conducted to examine subtidal habitats. Subtidal benthic trawls were also undertaken from a small vessel. Mixed tides with a prevailing diurnal component characterise both the Anambas and Natuna Archipelagos (Wyrtki, 1961; United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, 2003). The tidal range is small, varying between 1 m and 1.5 m (Admiralty Tide Tables, 2004). A number of opisthobranchs were collected and principally comprised the following phyllidiid species, identified following Bruncknorst (1993), Yonow (1996) and Fahrner & Schrödl (2000), that is: *Phyllidia coelestis* Bergh, 1905, *P. elegans* Bergh, 1869, *P. varicosa* Lamarck, 1801, *Phyllidiella pustulosa* (Cuvier, 1804), *Phyllidiella* sp., and *Fryeria* sp. Several other coral reef species remain undetermined. Incidental, cursory collections were also carried out in freshwater streams.

Preserved intact individuals and shells were sorted and identified using published handbooks, guides and monographs (Tables 1, 2). Gastropods were identified by K.S. Tan and bivalves by W. Kastoro.

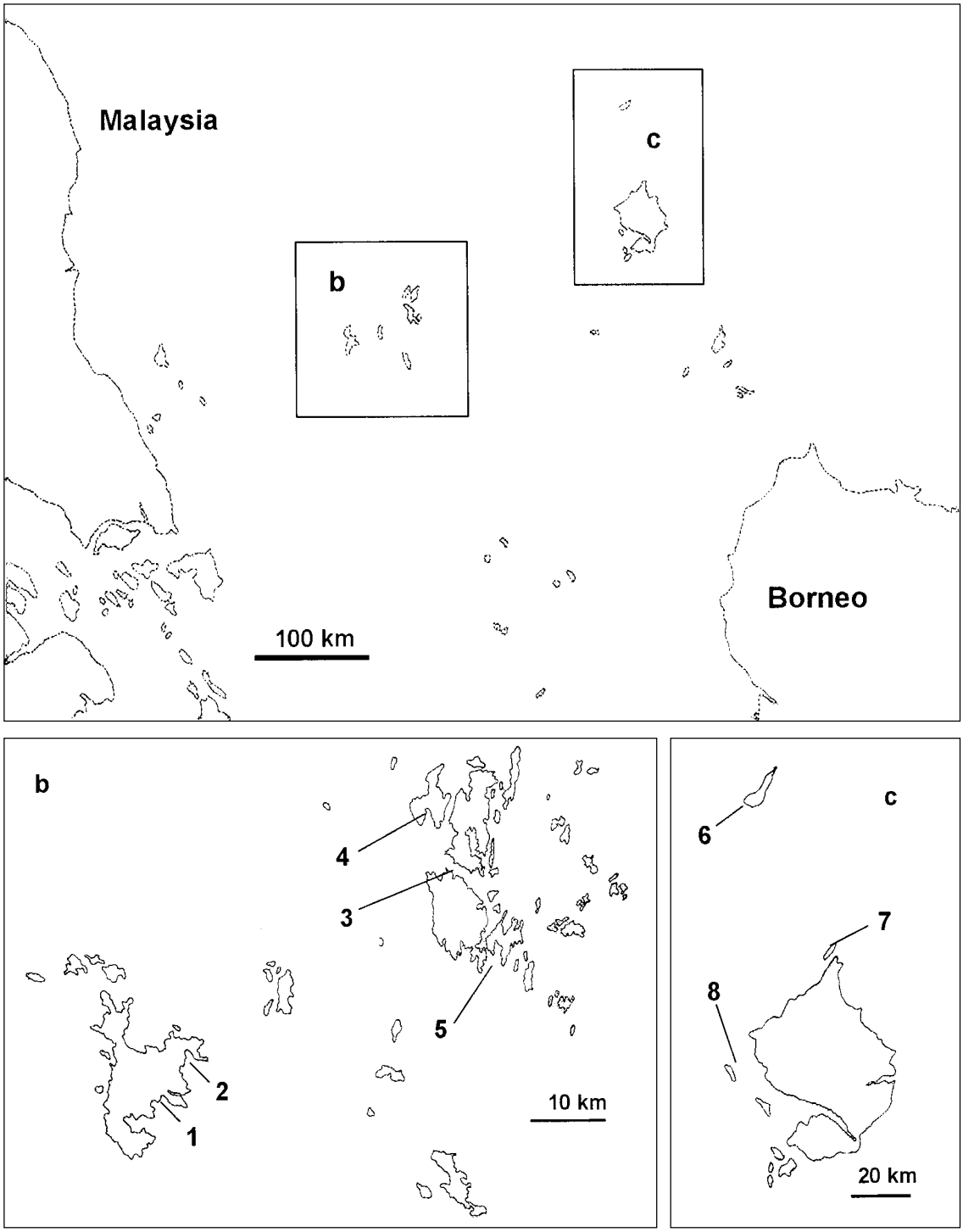

Fig. 1. Sampling location in the Anambas (inset b) and Natuna (inset c) Islands, South China Sea. Sampling was carried out at five locations in the Anambas Islands and three locations in the Natuna Islands. For details, refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Gastropods from the Anambas and Natuna Islands, South China Sea. Locations 1–5 are in the Anambas group of islands; locations 6–8 are in the Greater Natuna group of islands (see Fig. 1). 1: Teluk Tiru, Pulau Jemaja; 2: Teluk Jebung, Pulau Jemaja; 3: Pulau Kecik and Selat Peninting, between Pulau Matak and Pulau Siantan; 4: Teluk Airbandung, Pulau Mubur; 5: Teluk Dumang, Pulau Behala, south of Pulau Bajau; 6: Pulau Laut, North Natuna Ids.; 7: Pulau Panjang, off north coast of Pulau Bunguran; 8: Pulau Batu Bilis, off west coast of Pulau Bunguran.

Species	**Family**	**Location**	**Remarks**	**Reference**
Cellana radiata (Born)	Nacellidae	3, 7	Common, intertidal rocks	Powell, 1973; Dharma, 1988
Monodonta labio (Linnaeus)	Trochidae	3, 5, 8	Common, intertidal rocks	Dharma, 1988; Tan & Chou, 2000
Tectus cf. *triserialis* (Lamarck)	Trochidae	1, 4, 7	Uncommon, subtidal reefs	Dharma, 1988; Wilson, 1993
Trochus maculatus Linnaeus	Trochidae	1, 2, 3, 6	Common, intertidal rocks	Dharma, 1988; Tan & Chou, 2000
Turbo bruneus (Röding)	Turbinidae	1, 3	Common, intertidal rocks	as *T. setosus* in Dharma, 1988; Tan & Chou, 2000
Clithon oualaniensis (Lesson)	Neritidae	2	Common, in estuaries	Brandt, 1974; Starmühlner, 1976; Tan & Chou, 2000
Nerita albicilla Linnaeus	Neritidae	1, 3, 6	Common, low intertidal	Dharma, 1988; Tan & Chou, 2000
Nerita costata Gmelin	Neritidae	5, 8	Common, high intertidal	Cernohorsky, 1972; Dharma, 1988
Nerita polita Linnaeus	Neritidae	1, 2, 3, 8	Common, intertidal rocks and sand	Cernohorsky, 1972; Dharma, 1988
Nerita squamulata Le Guillou	Neritidae	2, 3, 8	Common, intertidal rocks and sand	Cernohorsky, 1972; possibly as *N. signata* in Dharma, 1988
Nerita undata Linnaeus	Neritidae	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8	Common, intertidal rocks	Dharma, 1988; Tan & Chou, 2000
Neritina pulligera (Linnaeus)	Neritidae	1	Common, freshwater streams	Brandt, 1974; Starmühlner, 1976
Echinolittorina feejeensis (Reeve)	Littorinidae	2, 3, 6	Common, intertidal rocks	Reid, 2001; Williams, Reid & Littlewood, 2003
Littoraria scabra (Linnaeus)	Littorinidae	1, 2, 3, 7	Common mangrove trees	Reid, 1986
Littoraria intermedia (Philippi)	Littorinidae	2	Uncommon, mangrove trees	Reid, 1986
Littoraria undulata (Gray)	Littorinidae	6	On rocks	Reid, 1986
Planaxis sulcatus (Born)	Planaxidae	1, 7, 8	Common, intertidal rocks	Houbrick, 1987
Planaxis niger Quoy & Gaimard	Planaxidae	3, 5	Uncommon, under intertidal rocks	Cernohorsky, 1972
Cerithidea cingulata (Gmelin)	Potamididae	1	In mangroves	Brandt, 1974; Houbrick, 1984
Terebralia palustris (Linnaeus)	Potamididae	1	In mangroves	Brandt, 1974; Houbrick, 1991
Terebralia sulcata (Born)	Potamididae	1, 2, 6	With *Cerithium coralium* in mangroves	Houbrick, 1991; Tan, 2000
Cerithium columna Sowerby	Cerithiidae	6	Uncommon	Houbrick, 1992
Cerithium coralium Kiener	Cerithiidae	1, 2, 6, 7	Common, in mangroves	Houbrick, 1992
Cerithium echinatum Lamarck	Cerithiidae	3	Uncommon	Houbrick, 1992
Cerithium nodulosum Bruguière	Cerithiidae	3, 7	Uncommon	Houbrick, 1992
Cerithium traillii Sowerby	Cerithiidae	1	Common	Houbrick, 1992
Cerithium zonatum (Wood)	Cerithiidae	2	Uncommon	Houbrick, 1992
Clypeomorus batillariaeformis Habe & Kosuge	Cerithiidae	1, 3, 6, 7, 8	Common	Houbrick, 1985
Clypeomorus bifasciata (Sowerby)	Cerithiidae	8	Common	Houbrick, 1985
Clypeomorus pellucida (Hombron & Jacquinot)	Cerithiidae	1, 2, 6	Uncommon	Houbrick, 1985
Clypeomorus petrosa (Wood)	Cerithiidae	2, 3, 7, 8	Common	Houbrick, 1985
Clypeomorus purpurastoma Houbrick	Cerithiidae	3	Common	Houbrick, 1985
Rhinoclavis vertagus (Linnaeus)	Cerithiidae	6, 8	Common	Houbrick, 1978
Strombus urceus (Linnaeus)	Strombidae	1, 6	Shells only	Tan & Chou, 2000

Species	Family	Location	Remarks	Reference
Cypraea arabica Linnaeus	Cypraeidae	1, 2, 6	Common	Tan & Chou, 2000
Cypraea errones Linnaeus	Cypraeidae	1	Common	Tan & Chou, 2000
Cypraea carneola Linnaeus	Cypraeidae	6	Uncommon, subtidal rocks	Lorenz & Hubert, 2000
Natica gualtieriana Récluz	Naticidae	6	Uncommon	Cernohorsky, 1972
Polinices tumidus (Swainson)	Naticidae	2	Uncommon?	Cernohorsky, 1972
Chicoreus torrefactus (Sowerby)	Muricidae	3, 6	Common	Houart, 1992
Cronia margariticola (Broderip)	Muricidae	2, 7, 8	Common	Tan, 2000
Drupa rubusidaeus Röding	Muricidae	6	Uncommon	Emerson & Cernohorsky, 1973
Drupella cornus (Röding)	Muricidae	3, 4, 6	Common	Cernohorsky, 1972
Morula anaxares (Kiener)	Muricidae	2, 3	Common	Tan, 2000
Morula funicula (Wood)	Muricidae	3	Common	Tan, 2000
Morula fusca (Küster)	Muricidae	2, 6, 7, 8	Common	Tan, 2000
Morula musiva (Kiener)	Muricidae	3	Common	Tan, 2000
Morula spinosa (H. & A. Adams)	Muricidae	5	Uncommon	Tan, 2000
Thais distinguenda (Dunker & Zelebor)	Muricidae	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	Common	Tan, 2000
Thais squamosa (Pease)	Muricidae	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8	Common	Tan, 2000
Vitularia miliaris (Gmelin)	Muricidae	3	Uncommon	Cernohorsky, 1980
Pictocolumbella ocellata (Link)	Columbellidae	1, 3, 6, 7	Common	deMaintenon, 1999
Pyrene varians (Sowerby)	Columbellidae	6	Uncommon	Cernohorsky, 1972
Cantharus fumosus (Dillwyn)	Buccinidae	3, 8	Common	Cernohorsky, 1972
Engina alveolata (Kiener)	Buccinidae	1, 2, 3, 6	Common	Cernohorsky, 1972
Engina siderea (Reeve)	Buccinidae	1	Uncommon	Cernohorsky, 1978
Pugilina sp. 1	Melongenidae	2		
Pugilina sp. 2	Melongenidae	2		
Vexillum sanguisugum (Linnaeus)	Costellariidae	1	Shells only	Cernohorsky, 1971
Vexillum vulpeculum (Linnaeus)	Costellariidae	2	Shells only	Cernohorsky, 1971
Nassarius arcularia (Linnaeus)	Nassariidae	1, 6, 7, 8	Common	Cernohorsky, 1984
Nassarius coronatus (Bruguiére)	Nassariidae	1, 7		Cernohorsky, 1984
Nassarius luridus (Gould)	Nassariidae	2, 6, 7	Common	Cernohorsky, 1984
Nassarius olivaceus (Bruguière)	Nassariidae	2		Cernohorsky, 1984
Fasciolaria trapezium (Linnaeus)	Fasciolariidae	7	Shells only	Cernohorsky, 1978
Latirus nodatus (Gmelin)	Fasciolariidae	6	Common, subtidal	Cernohorsky, 1978
Latirus polygonus (Gmelin)	Fasciolariidae	6	Subtidal	Cernohorsky, 1978
Mitra eremitarum Röding	Mitridae	7	Intertidal	Cernohorsky, 1971
Mitra chrysostoma Broderip	Mitridae	2, 7	Intertidal	Cernohorsky, 1971
Mitra cucumerina Lamarck	Mitridae	3	Shells only	Cernohorsky, 1971
Mitra sp.	Mitridae	3		
Conus eburneus Hwass	Conidae	7	Intertidal	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus marmoreus Linnaeus	Conidae	2	Intertidal	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus miliaris Hwass	Conidae	2	Shells only	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus musicus Hwass in Bruguière	Conidae	4	Subtidal	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus mustelinus Hwass	Conidae	3, 7	Subtidal	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus tessulatus Born	Conidae	8	Shells only	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus varius Linnaeus	Conidae	6	Shells only	Röckel et al., 1995
Conus vexillum Gmelin	Conidae	7	Intertidal	Röckel et al., 1995
Pythia scarabaeus (Linnaeus)	Ellobiidae	2	Intertidal	Cernohorsky, 1978
Melampus flavus (Gmelin)	Ellobiidae	2	Intertidal	Cernohorsky, 1978
Siphonaria atra Quoy & Gaimard	Siphonariidae	2, 3, 7	Intertidal	Tan & Chou, 2000
Siphonaria guamensis Quoy & Gaimard	Siphonariidae	6	Intertidal	Tan & Chou, 2000
Siphonaria javanica Lamarck	Siphonariidae	1, 3	Intertidal	Tan & Chou, 2000
Onchidium verruculatum Cuvier	Onchidiidae	1, 2, 5	Intertidal	Hyman, 1999
Phyllidia coelestis Bergh	Phyllidiidae	1, 3	Subtidal	Brunckhorst, 1993; Yonow, 1996
Phyllidia elegans Bergh	Phyllidiidae	2, 6	Subtidal	Brunckhorst, 1993; Yonow, 1996
Phyllidia varicosa Lamarck	Phyllidiidae	1, 3	Subtidal	Brunckhorst, 1993; Yonow, 1996
Phyllidiella cf. *granulatus* Brunckhorst	Phyllidiidae	3	Subtidal	Brunckhorst, 1993; Yonow, 1996
Phyllidiella pustulosa (Cuvier)	Phyllidiidae	1, 2, 3, 6	Intertidal and subtidal	Brunckhorst, 1993; Yonow, 1996
Fryeria cf. *menindie* Brunckhorst	Phyllidiidae	2	Subtidal	Brunckhorst, 1993

Table 2. Bivalves from the Anambas and Natuna Islands, South China Sea. For location details, refer to Table 1 and Fig. 1.

Species	**Family**	**Location**	**Remarks**	**Reference**
Barbatia foliata (Forsskål)	Arcidae	1, 2, 3, 8	On/in dead corals	Hylleberg & Kilburn, 2003
Barbatia amygdalumtostum (Röding) (*fusca* Bruguière of authors)	Arcidae	1, 3	On/in dead corals	Hylleberg & Kilburn, 2003
Barbatia virescens (Reeve)	Arcidae	1, 2	On dead corals	Kira, 1965
Acar plicatum (Dillwyn)	Arcidae	8	Shells only	Kira, 1965; Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Arca avellana Lamarck	Arcidae	1	Attached to rocks adjacent to fringing mangrove	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Septifer bilocularis (Linnaeus)	Mytilidae	2, 3	On coral rubble	Kira, 1965
Hormomya mutabilis (Gould)	Mytilidae	2, 3	On rocks near mangroves	Kira, 1965
Modiolus auriculatus (Krauss)	Mytilidae	1	In sandy mudflats near mangroves	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Gregariella striata (Hanley)	Mytilidae	2	Coral rubble	Lee & Morton, 1985
Lithophaga nasuta (Philippi)	Mytilidae	2	In dead corals	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Pteria chinensis (Leach)	Pteriidae	2, 7	In fringing *Porites* reef	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Pinctada maculata (Gould)	Pteriidae	2	On dead corals	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Electroma ovata (Quoy & Gaimard)	Pteriidae	1, 2	In coral rubble	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Isognomon perna (Linnaeus)	Isognomonidae	1, 2, 3	In coral rubble	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Isognomon) *legumen* (Gmelin)	Isognomonidae	1, 3	In coral rubble	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Isognomon isognomon (Linnaeus)	Isognomonidae	1, 3, 7	In coral rubble, intertidal	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Isognomon nucleus (Lamarck)	Isognomonidae	3	On rocks in mangroves	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Isognomon acutirostris (Dunker)	Isognomonidae	3, 5, 6	On intertidal rocks	Habe, 1968
Malleus albus Lamarck	Malleidae	1	Subtidal, trawled	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Malvufundus regulus (Forsskål)	Malleidae	1, 2	Coral rubble	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Limaria fragilis (Gmelin)	Limidae	3	Coral rubble	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Amusium pleuronectes (Linnaeus)	Pectinidae	8	Subtidal, trawled	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Comptopallium radula (Linnaeus)	Pectinidae	3	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Annachlamys macassarensis (Chenu)	Pectinidae	2	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Chlamys squamosa (Gmelin)	Pectinidae	2	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Chlamys madreporarium (Sowerby)	Pectinidae	3	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Spondylus squamosus Schreibers	Spondylidae	2	Intertidal	Lamprell & Healy, 1998
Chama limbula Lamarck	Chamidae	2, 3	Coral rubble	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Trapezium bicarinatum (Schumacher)	Trapeziidae	1	Coral rubble	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Polymesoda expansa (Mousson)	Corbiculidae	1	Intertidal mud in mangroves	Morton, 1984
Fragum hemicardium (Linnaeus)	Cardiidae	2	Subtidal, trawled	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Laevicardium biradiatum (Bruguiere)	Cardiidae	2	Subtidal, trawled	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Acrosterigma flava (Linnaeus)	Cardiidae	2	Coral rubble	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Tridacna maxima (Röding)	Tridacnidae	1, 2	Reef	Rosewater, 1965
Scutarcopagia scobinata (Linnaeus)	Tellinidae	2	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Cyclotellina remies (Linnaeus)	Tellinidae	1	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Tellinella staurella (Lamarck)	Tellinidae	8	Shells only	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Asaphis violascens (Forsskål)	Psammobiidae	8	Sandy shore	Willan, 1993
Gari elongata (Lamarck)	Psammobiidae	2	Brackish water stream	Willan, 1993
Donax cuneatus Linnaeus	Donacidae	1	Coral reef	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Atactodea striata (Gmelin)	Mesodesmatidae	1, 2, 3, 8	Sandy shore	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Davila plana (Hanley)	Mesodesmatidae	1, 2, 3	Sandy shore	Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992
Saxicavella sp.	Hiatellidae	1	Sandy mudflat	Cox et al., 1969

RESULTS

Ninety-one species of prosobranch and pulmonate gastropods in 24 families (Table 1) and 43 species of bivalves in 18 families (Table 2) were identified. Six species of phyllidiid nudibranchs were also included in the gastropod list. Amongst the gastropods, the Cerithiidae and Muricidae were each represented by 12 species. Cones (Conidae) and nerites (Neritopsina) were also relatively common, and represented by eight and seven species, respectively. The remaining 20 families of gastropods each comprised between one and four species. The Strombidae, Costellariidae, Mitridae and Conidae were either entirely or partially represented only by shells. The Patellogastropoda was represented by a single species of *Cellana*, while neogastropods comprised nearly half of all species identified. The pulmonates were typified rather predictably by onchidiids (*Onchidium verruculatum*), *Siphonaria* spp. and ellobiids (*Pythia, Melampus*). Based on the number of localities where each species was collected, *Nerita undata* (Neritidae), *Clypeomorus batillariaeformis* (Cerithiidae), *Thais distinguenda* (Muricidae) and *Thais squamosa* (Muricidae) were the most common and widespread intertidal gastropods.

In the case of the Bivalvia, the Arcidae, Mytilidae, Isognomonidae and Pectinidae were each represented by five species (Table 2). However, nearly all pectinid species collected were shells, with the exception of the subtidal scallop *Amusium pleuronectes* of which a number of specimens were obtained alive subtidally by trawling. All three tellinid species listed in Table 2 were also identified from shells. Eight other families were represented by single species but, surprisingly, anomiids, ostreids and plicatulids were absent from the collection. The epibyssate bivalve *Barbatia foliata* (Arcidae) and the sand-dwelling intertidal *Atactodea striata* (Mesodesmatidae) were the most common and widespread species based on the frequency of occurrence at each sampling site.

DISCUSSION

One hundred and twenty-five gastropod and 43 bivalve species were recorded from Darvel Bay off southeast Sabah, Borneo (Shabdin et al., 1998). About 170 molluscan species have been identified from Christmas Island (Indian Ocean) (Tomlin, 1934). Three hundred and nine gastropod and 118 bivalve species were recognized from Hainan Island, South China Sea (Hasegawa et al., 2001). More than 350 species of shelled molluscs were recorded from Pulau Seribu and Jakarta Bay (Roberts et al., 1982). Some 895 prosobranch and 485 opisthobranch gastropods and 339 bivalve species hav been recorded from Guam (Carlson & Hoff, 2003; Paulay, 2003; Smith, 2003), and 1,031 gastropod species were identified by Fukuda (1993, 1994, 1995) from the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands. Clearly the relatively low diversity of 134 gastropod and bivalve species obtained from this expedition represents only a small fraction of the actual marine molluscan diversity present in the Anambas and Natuna archipelagos. A large proportion of the identified gastropods and bivalves were conspicuous, common epibenthic inhabitants of intertidal habitats. Quite undoubtedly the number of gastropod and bivalve species recorded will be significantly higher if more sophisticated and focused collecting regimes are employed over a longer period of time. In particular, intertidal and subtidal soft-bottom inhabiting gastropods and bivalves appear to have been inadequately sampled. Ranellids, cymatiids, muricine gastropods, olivids and terebrids were unrepresented in the collection. "Micromolluscs" (gastropods and bivalves of less than 5 mm in size), characterized by species of Rissoidae, Triphoridae and Pyamidellidae, were also lacking. Infaunal bivalve groups including lucinids, venerids and tellinids were either conspicuously absent or only represented by a few shells. It seems unlikely that representatives of these families are non-existent on the islands. The skewed and opportunistic nature of sampling is also highlighted by the fact that while the intertidal gastropod macrofauna on rocky shores is relatively well-represented in the collection, there were no oyster (sensu lato, including members of the Anomiidae, Ostreidae and Plicatulidae) nor vermetid specimens. Similarly, it is unlikely that the widely distributed Indo-Pacific high-shore littorinid gastropod *Echinolittorina trochoides* is absent from the sites visited. Bivalve species living in specialized habitats were not sampled (e.g., galeommatids, teredinids), as was the case for ascoglossan nudibranchs which are unrepresented in the collection. Nevertheless, the species lists provide a first insight into the marine molluscan fauna found of a remote region of the South China Sea.

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