

PREFACE

Supplement 16 of *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* has several origins. The intent for a special volume dedicated to reporting the many decapod crustacean discoveries from the Philippines resulting from the very successful Filipino-Franco-Singaporean PANGLAO 2004 Expedition to central Philippines, and the follow up PANGLAO 2005 deep-sea cruise, has been in discussion by the present editors, Chan Tin-Yam (National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung) and Marivene Manuel-Santos (National Museum of the Philippines, Manila) since 2004. As the intention was to have scientists report on the discoveries as and when they are ready, it was felt that it was better not to bind them to such a volume. It proved to be a right decision as over 20 research papers have already been published. Still, the present volume publishes another nine papers resulting from the two Philippine expeditions. There are of course more papers being synthesized based on material obtained from these surveys; two expedition reports, as well as a third one to the northern Philippines conducted in 2007 have been prepared and should be published in the bulletin next year. These expedition reports will also summarise the many interesting findings arising from these surveys.

The idea for a supplement was also mooted in 2005 when the large number of decapod papers submitted and accepted for publication in the *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* was high enough to justify one. This would have been useful to help clear the backlog and allow other papers to be published earlier in the normal issues. The imperative for this supplement finally came in mid-2007 when the decision was taken to publish the important checklist of crabs of the world by P. K. L. Ng, Danièle Guinot and Peter Davie in *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* (Supplement 17). As there were many new genera and species whose names needed to be validated by these authors and their collaborators, it was felt that a supplement would provide the best avenue for the papers that would be prepared. Not all the anticipated papers came in on time, but nevertheless, seven of the papers were finally accepted for publication.

In this supplement, we bring together 22 papers of varying lengths and complexities, almost all on decapod crustaceans, with one exception being a contribution on copepod ecology. It involves a total of 22 authors from 14 countries; and validates one new family, two new subfamilies, 43 new genera and 27 species! The title of this supplement, 'Crustacean Supplement I', reflects what we think would be the first of probably several crustacean supplements to come, as the research on crustacean from the Philippine expeditions gathers momentum and also to celebrate international scientific collaboration.

S. H. Tan and Peter K. L. Ng
Editors