

Observation of wild *Stichopus chloronotus* juveniles

From: Nina Yasuda,¹ Coralie Taquet,² and Katuki Oki³

¹ JSPS Post-doctoral fellow, National Research Institute of Fisheries and Environment of Inland Sea, Hiroshima, Japan.

² Post-doctoral fellow, Department of Mechanical and Environmental Informatics, Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan. Email: coralie.taquet@gmail.com.

³ Tida Design Limited Company, Amami Island, Japan.

Species: *Stichopus chloronotus*, Brandt, 1835.

Location: Ohama (28°24'07.77"N, 129°27'15.20"E), Naze-koyado, Amami-city, in Amami Island (Kagoshima-Prefecture), located between the four main islands of Japan and Okinawa Archipelago (Japan). The climate is subtropical.

Date and time: 10 July 2010, day time (11:00–13:00, local time).

Moon phase: New moon

Observer/Photographer: Nina Yasuda (Fig. 1).

Depth and tide: ~ 1 m, high tide (spring tide).

Bottom: Sandy bottom with coral rubble.

Note: Morphology very close to that of an adult (Conand 1998). Curved body length: 5–10 cm. With length/width ratio similar to that of an adult; they are distinguished from one another by thick, short individuals produced from asexual reproduction. There were many juvenile *Stichopus chloronotus* together with adults on the Ohama coast (total density of *Stichopus chloronotus* was about 0.05 ind m⁻², and almost 37 out of 90 individuals were juveniles with less than 10 cm of curved body length). Corals at Ohama were abundant before the coral bleaching event in 1998. *Stichopus chloronotus* is mostly found on dead coral rubble. We found only 1 juvenile out of 86 individuals in the nearby *Stichopus chloronotus* population at Cape Ayamaru (28°24'28.88"N, 129°43'00.74"E) during the same survey (11 July 2010).

Reference: Conand C. 1998. Holothurians. p. 1157–1190. In: Carpenter K.E. and Niem V.H. (eds). The living marine resources of the western Central Pacific. Volume 2. Cephalopods, crustaceans, holothurians and sharks. FAO, Rome. 4218 p.

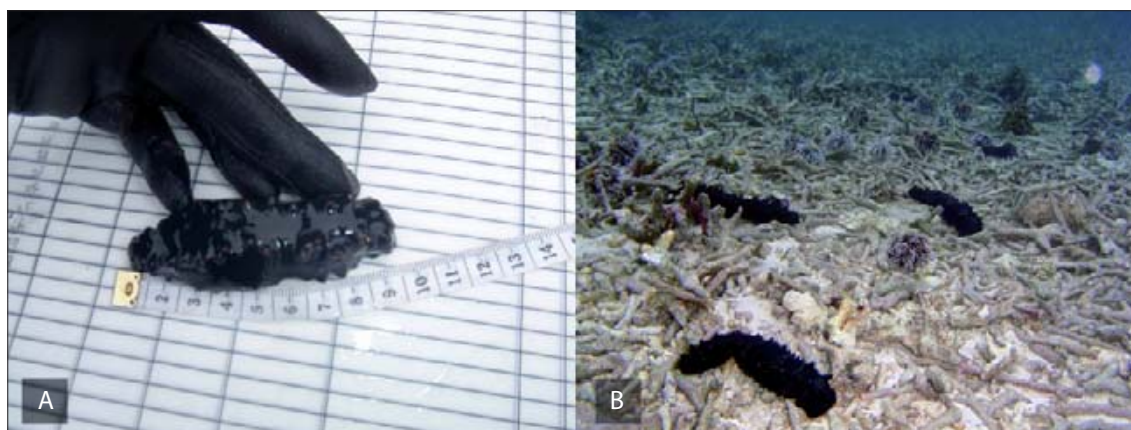


Figure 1. A: Juvenile *Stichopus chloronotus*; B: *Stichopus chloronotus* adults on dead coral rubble at Ohama, Amami Ohshima, Japan.