Observation of wild *Stichopus chloronotus* juveniles

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**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).


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