Conclusion

After the data had been collected, our modest efforts involved arranging an information session, at the request of some of the concerned parties, on:

- ENT physiology of diving;
- preventing black-outs during skin diving;
- the usefulness and principles of diving tables. A set of tables was given to the president of the Fokontany (village assembly), who was supposed to give copies to those concerned.

We do not, however, have any illusions about the impact, even short-term, of our work.

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About the Latin name of the Japanese sea cucumber

by Pr.V.S.Levin

Eight genera are specified in the family Stichopodidae: *Stichopus* Brandt, 1835; *Thelenota* Brandt, 1835; *Astichopus* Clark, 1922; *Parastichopus* Clark, 1922; *Neostichopus* Deichmann, 1958; *Eostichopus* Deichmann, 1958; *Isostichopus* Deichmann, 1958; *Apostichopus* Liao, 1980.

Identification of the taxonomic status of a very common and commercially important species—the Japanese sea cucumber *Stichopus japonicus*—has been one of the obscure questions in the family's taxonomy. Liao (1980) included this species in the newly established genus *Apostichopus*. However, he provided only a comparison between *S. japonicus* and the type species of genera *S. chloronotus* without considering the status of other 'problematic' representatives of the family, primarily *Parastichopus californicus* and *P. parvimensis* that inhabit the Pacific coast of the USA. Deichmann (1937) had attributed those species to the genus *Parastichopus* established by H. Clark in 1922 for *S. tremulus* (north Atlantic) and *S. nigripunctatus* (Japan).

Established by us, a very pronounced morphological and chemical similarity between *S. japonicus* and *P. californicus* (Levin et al., 1985, 1986; Kalinin et al., 1994), and their wide difference from the type species, explain the need of separating these species from the genus *Stichopus*. Therefore, despite the limited data used by Liao in establishing the genus *Apostichopus* I consider it valid to place *Stichopus japonicus* within the monotypic genus *Apostichopus*.

Thus, the correct Latin name of the Japanese sea cucumber is *Apostichopus japonicus* (Selenka).

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