Spawning observations

communicated by Sumaitt Putchakarn¹

During my last field trip to Koh Samet ("Koh" means island), eastern coast of Thailand on 22–24 September 2000, I observed holothurians spawning. The species was Holothuria (Thymioscycia) impatiens. I found both females and males. I think this species might couple one by one because I did not see any holothurians in a 2–3 meter area (if I am right). The distance between males and females was about 80 centimeters and the size of the holothurians was about 15 centimeters in length.

I found this appearance on the afternoon of 23 September, which is the late rainy season in Thailand. There was heavy rain in the morning but the sea was calm with no current. It was my first time to observe holothurians spawning.

Three pictures of sperm released by these holothurians are on the webpage:

This web page is maintained by Dr. Sabine. Unfortunately, I could not take any photos of females.

I would appreciate it if anybody can give me information on the coupling of holothurians in their natural habitat and discuss holothurian spawning.

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