

Observation of juvenile *Stichopus vastus* in Pohnpei Lagoon, Federated States of Micronesia

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Species: *Stichopus vastus*

Note: During visits to coastal and island communities as part of an evaluation of sponge and coral farming in Pohnpei, large numbers of juvenile *Stichopus vastus* were sighted on the northeastern side of Pohnpei Lagoon adjacent to Pharewm Island. All of the juveniles were located on shallow seagrass beds with soft sandy substrate in around 1 m of water (flood tide).

Date observed: 2 March 2011 (~ 10.30 am)

Reference:

Byrne M., Rowe F. and Uthicke S. 2010. Molecular taxonomy, phylogeny and evolution in the family Stichopodidae (Aspidochirotida: Holothuroidea) based on COI and 16S mitochondrial DNA. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 56(3):1068–1081.



Stichopus vastus (image: Jeff Kinch)