Observation of mass recruitment of juvenile dendrochirotids on coral reefs of Sulawesi, Indonesia

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Observation

Location and method: Westward fringing reef of Samalona Island, 05°07′19.76″S and 119°20′24.94″E. Samalona Island is a small island about 5 km from the city of Makassar on southwest Sulawesi in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. Scuba diving depth: 5 m.

Date: 5 March 2011, end of the rainy season; the seawater was rich in nutrients from the river.

Habitat characteristics: Juveniles were found living on coral reef substrate with turf and coralline algae. The coral reef substrate coverage consisted of hard corals (18.8%) and dead coral with rubble (71.1%), with other organisms, including holothurians (10.1%).

Juvenile characteristics: Long white tentacles, longer than the bodies; body length 6–8 mm; colour: dark green skin with orange lines. (Adults are dispersed and cryptic; only the long tentacles make them visible.)

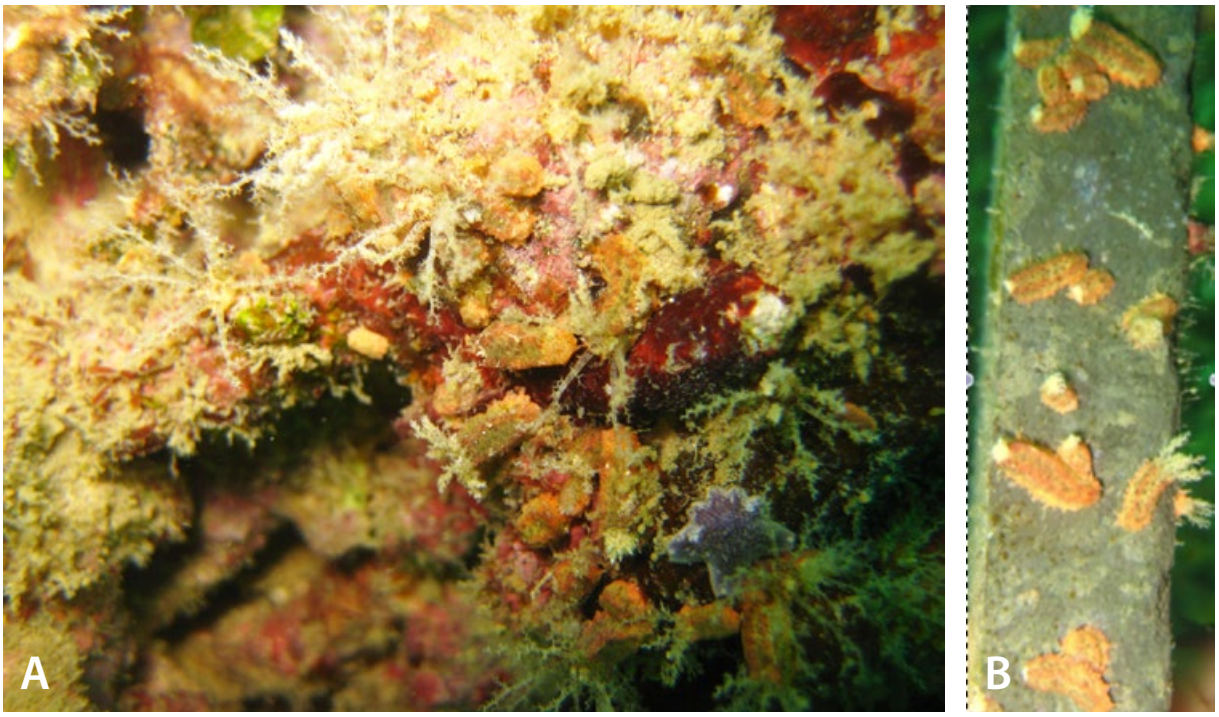

Figure 1. A: adult and juvenile dendrochirotids; B: close up of settled juveniles (6–8 mm).

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