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Aims and Scope: *Indo Pacific Journal of Ocean Life* (Indo Pac J Ocean Life) (formerly *Ocean Life*) encourages submission of manuscripts dealing with all aspects of maritime and marine resources in estuaries, coastal zones, continental shelves, the seas and oceans, including marine biodiversity and fisheries resources, biochemistry, physiology, behavior, and genetics of marine life, socio-economic and cultural aspects, conservation and management, as well as biogeochemistry, marine pollution, and climate change.

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The title of the article should be written in compact, clear, and informative sentence, preferably not more than 20 words. Name of author(s) should be

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Abstract A concise abstract is required (about 200 words). The abstract should be informative and state briefly the aim of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, thus it must be able to stand alone (completely self-explanatory). References should not be cited, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential, they must be defined at their first mention. **Keywords** are about five words, covering scientific and local name (if any), research themes, and special methods used; and sorted from A to Z. **Abbreviations** (if any): All important abbreviations must be defined at their first mention there. **Running title** is about five words.

Introduction is about 600 words, covering the aims of the research and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results. **Materials and Methods** should emphasize on the procedures and data analysis. **Results and Discussion** should be written as a series of connecting sentences, however, for a manuscript with long discussion should be divided into subtitles. Thorough discussion represents the causal effect mainly explains why and how the results of the research were taken place, and do not only re-express the mentioned results in the form of sentences. **Concluding** sentence should be given at the end of the discussion. **Acknowledgements** are expressed in a brief; all sources of institutional, private and corporate financial support for the work must be fully acknowledged, and any potential conflicts of interest are noted.

Figures and Tables of a maximum of three pages should be clearly presented. The title of a picture is written down below the picture, while the title of a table is written above the table. Colored figures can only be accepted if the information in the manuscript can lose without those images; the chart is preferred to use black and white images. The author could consign any picture or photo for the front cover, although it does not print in the manuscript. All images property of others should be mentioned the source. Author is suggested referring to Wikipedia for international boundaries and Google Earth for satellite imagery. If not specifically mentioned, it is assumed to refer to these sources. **There is no appendix**, all data or data analysis is incorporated into Results and Discussions. For broad data, it can be displayed on the website as a supplement.

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Journal:

Saharjo BH, Nurhayati AD. 2006. Domination and composition structure change at hemic peat natural regeneration following burning: a case study in Pelalawan, Riau Province. *Biodiversitas* 7: 154-158. DOI: 10.13057/biodiv/d070213.

The usage of "et al." in long author lists will also be accepted:

Smith J, Jones M Jr, Houghton L et al. 1999. Future of health insurance. *N Engl J Med* 965: 325-329. DOI: 10.1007/s002149800025.

Book:

Rai MK, Carpinella C. 2006. *Naturally Occurring Bioactive Compounds*. Elsevier, Amsterdam.

Chapter in the book:

Webb CO, Cannon CH, Davies SJ. 2008. Ecological organization, biogeography, and the phylogenetic structure of rainforest tree communities. In: Carson W, Schnitzer S (eds.). *Tropical Forest Community Ecology*. Wiley-Blackwell, New York.

Abstract:

Assaeed AM. 2007. Seed production and dispersal of *Rhazya stricta*. 50th annual symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, Swansea, UK, 23-27 July 2007.

Proceeding:

Alikodra HS. 2000. Biodiversity for development of local autonomous government. In: Setyawan AD, Sutarno (eds.). *Toward Mount Lawu National Park: Proceeding of National Seminary and Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation to Protect and Save Germplasm in Java Island*. Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, 17-20 July 2000. [Indonesian]

Thesis, Dissertation:

Sugiyarto. 2004. *Soil Macro-invertebrates Diversity and Inter-Cropping Plants Productivity in Agroforestry System based on Sengon*. [Dissertation]. Universitas Brawijaya, Malang. [Indonesian]

Information from the internet:

Balagadde FK, Song H, Ozaki J, Collins CH, Barnet M, Arnold FH, Quake SR, You L. 2008. A synthetic *Escherichia coli* predator-prey ecosystem. *Mol Syst Biol* 4: 187. DOI: 10.1038/msb.2008.24. www.molecularsystembiology.com.

EDITORIAL NOTE

For Special Issue on

"Marine Studies from Rodrigues Island, Western Indian Ocean" Indo-Pacific Journal of Ocean Life vol. 9, no. 2, December 2025

Greetings!

This special edition of "Marine Studies from Rodrigues Island, Western Indian Ocean" in the Indo-Pacific Journal of Ocean Life is dedicated to the late Dr. Ricardo F. Tapilatu from the Pacific Marine Resources Research Center, University of Papua (UNIPA), Manokwari, Indonesia, and the former Editor-in-Chief. The Editorial team of the Indo-Pacific Journal of Ocean Life received the request in September 2024, and the Editorial Office dedicated this special edition for the publication as volume 9 No. 2 in December 2025.

The researchers and students, including local and international ones, prepared the manuscripts under the Pole of Research Excellence in Sustainable Marine Biodiversity (PRE-SMB), led by Professor Ranjeet Bhagooli and the Department of Biosciences and Ocean Studies at the Faculty of Science of the University of Mauritius. As per the journal's requirements, several manuscripts falling under this special edition topic from the waters of Rodrigues were submitted. Following the standard peer-review process of the journal, accepted papers are presented in the special edition entitled "Marine Studies from Rodrigues Island, Western Indian Ocean." This special edition is published in the context that the coral reefs around Rodrigues Island harbors a relatively high marine biodiversity as part of the Republic of Mauritius in the western Indian Ocean. Coral reefs provide substantial ecological goods and services to the national economies of small island developing states supporting coastal communities. However, such ecosystems are under peril due to rapid climate change and anthropogenic disturbances.

This special edition entails marine studies around Rodrigues Island which is occupied by less than 45,000 inhabitants, and has a land area of 104 km², lagoon area of 300 km² and fringing reef of 200 km². Rodrigues Island form part of the Republic of Mauritius in the western Indian Ocean region. Though the Islanders from Rodrigues depend extensively on the marine ecosystems and associated resources very little is known and published about their marine ecosystems. This special issue adds to the existing scientific literature to further help sustainable use of the ocean resources and foster appropriate conservation and management measures in an era of a rapidly warming ocean.

This special edition presents original articles documenting several ecological studies along with some experimental investigations. The original paper by Ricot et al. assessed the herbivorous fish biomass at five sites around Rodrigues Island and found higher biomass in coral-dominated than the non-coral-dominated habitats. Herbivorous fish has a pivotal role in maintaining coral recovery and resilience through control of macroalgal growth. Priest et al. documented the spatio-temporal density distribution of the crown-of-thorns (COTS) sea star (*Acanthaster*) and marine gastropod (*Drupella*) predation

on corals. This study informed that *Drupella cornus*, rather than *Acanthaster* possibly represents a potential issue to reefs in Rodrigues. Jogee et al. investigated photosynthetic health performance of photosynthate producing dinoflagellate endosymbionts (Symbiodiniaceae) in four reef-building coral genera (*Montipora*, *Platygyra*, *Acropora*, *Favia*) affected by four coral diseases namely Black Band Disease (BBD), Skeletal Eroding Band (SEB), White Band (WS), and White Syndrome (WS), which tend to be increasing in prevalence and accelerating reef decline worldwide under climate change- and anthropogenically-driven impacts. Two of the studied coral diseases namely BBD and SEB had significant impacts on the photosynthetic functioning in two coral genera, *Montipora* and *Favia*, respectively. Jeetun et al. explored the thermal photosynthetic functioning of shaded- and light-exposed coral *Echinopora forskaliana*, which tended to exhibit bleaching in light-exposed conditions in the field. When subjected to thermal stress trials at a moderate light level, those from the exposed environments exhibited reduced photosynthetic performance and bleaching, implying shaded habitats as climate refugia and potentially useful in adaptive conservation and management approaches in a warning marine environment. Gerzer et al. documented a high-density aggregation of the sea cucumber *Holothuria cinerascens* compared to *Holothuria atra* and *Stichopus horrens* in a limestone structural complex habitat providing a variety of crevices, appropriate water flow, predatory refugia and opportunities for attachment in a lagoon system of Rodrigues Island. Thorough understanding of holothurian ecology has implications for appropriate conservation and mariculture strategies. Mattapullut et al. presented the first record of *Annella mollis*, a gorgonian soft coral (Octocorallia) commonly called giant sea fan, at two outer reef slope sites namely Tombant Coco and Ti Paté at approximately 27 m deep from the waters of Rodrigues Island. Munbodhe and Bhagooli reported on the corals and reef fishes of Rodrigues Island with implications for regionally endemic species in a warming ocean. The endemic reef fish to Rodrigues, *Pomacentrus rodriguensis*, were observed both in marine protected and non-protected areas. The regionally endemic and rare reef fishes namely *Stegastes pelicierei*, *Stegastes limbatus*, *Pomacentrus pikei*, *Amphiprion latifasciatus*, and *Amphiprion chrysogaster* were sporadically observed in non-protected sites. Two regionally endemic corals *Acropora branchi* and *Pocillopora indiania*, were observed at all studied marine protected sites. Understanding the distribution of endemic and rare corals and reef fishes around Rodrigues Island is imperative for an enhanced protection and conservation strategy. Ramkalam et al. explored the distribution of soft corals and photo-physiology of bleached and non-bleached *Sarcophyton* sp. around Rodrigues. This study indicated dominance of some soft coral species at some of the studied sites and reduced photosynthetic performance in bleached compared to non-bleached *Sarcophyton*. Ramah

et al. studied the changes in densities of two species of *Tridacna* over a decade at two protected areas of Rodrigues Island. The South East Marine Protected Area consistently supported higher densities, underscoring its role as a key refuge, while the English Bay Marine Reserve had lower densities for both species and limited recovery potential and thus indicating site- and species-specific variations in *Tridacna* densities.

The contributions of papers presented in this special edition bring forward new scientific information on marine diversity and distribution of key marine organisms and bleaching patterns of a reef-building coral from the coral reefs of Rodrigues Island. These findings may further inform appropriate protection and conservation related

decision-making for an enhanced and adaptive management strategy for the coral reefs of Rodrigues Island in the western Indian ocean.

Professor (Dr) Ranjeet Bhagooli
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