

## **Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos Symposium**

Organized by *Philippe Bouchet, Laure Corbari, Nicolas Puillandre, Sarah Samadi* (National Museum of Natural History, Paris), and *Cécile Debitus* (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development)

*In collaboration with Wei-Jen Chen (NTU) & Tin-Yam Chan (NTOU), Taiwan*



**T**<sub>ropical</sub> **D**<sub>EEP</sub> **S**<sub>ea</sub> **B**<sub>ENTHOS</sub>  
celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Paris, 20 & 21 October 2016

10h00 - 18h00  
Auditorium de la Grande Galerie de l'Evolution  
Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle

<http://expeditions.mnhn.fr/program/tropicaldeep-seabenthos>

Save the Date !

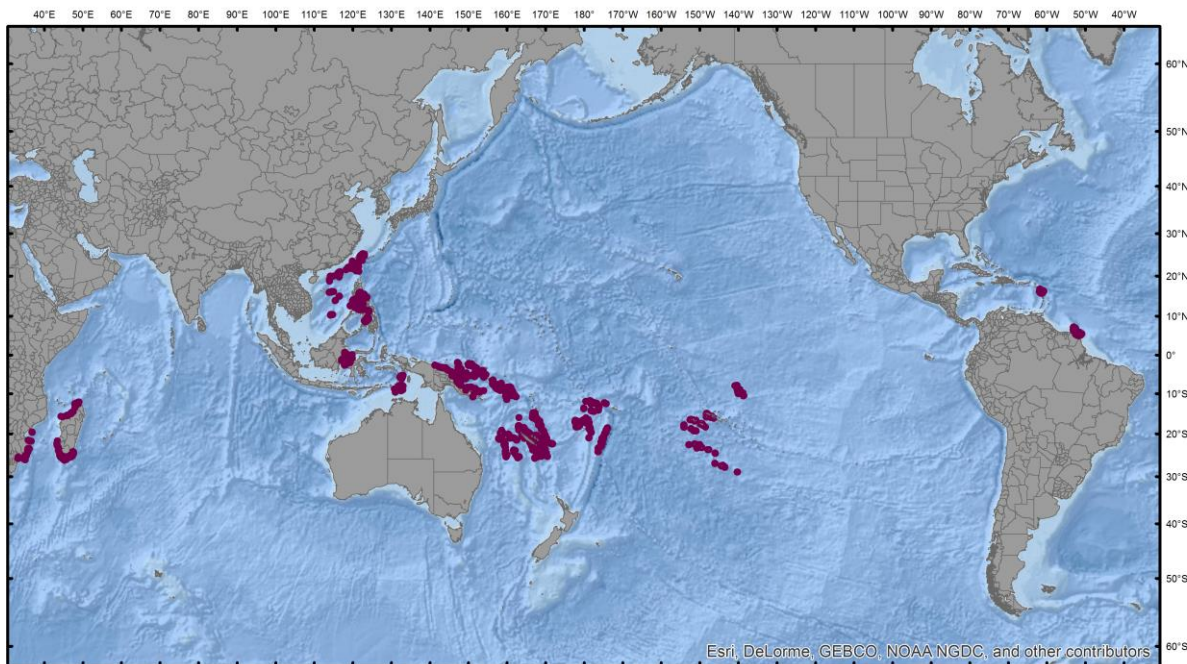
MUSÉUM Institut de recherche pour le développement

March 22, 1976. The research vessel *Vauban* catches the "living fossil" mud lobster *Neoglyphea inopinata* in deep water off Lubang Island, in the Philippines, exactly from where the *Albatross* had collected the first specimen in 1908. This spectacular rediscovery becomes the birthmark of the "Musorstom campaigns" which in 1999 became the *Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos* expeditions. With *Neoglyphea* came a cornucopia of all kinds of benthic biota which Jacques Forest and Alain Crosnier, the initiators of the programme, farmed out to a worldwide network of specialists.

**TROPICAL**  
— DEEP SEA —  
**BENTHOS**

2016. Forty years later, the *Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos* expeditions have made over 5,000 dredge and trawls hauls on what constitutes a frontier in biodiversity exploration - namely the outer slopes of large tropical islands. The launching of RV *Alis*, in 1986, boosted the exploration of New Caledonia, followed after 1992 by a Golden Age of South Pacific cruises to Vanuatu, Fiji, Wallis & Futuna, Tonga, the Marquesas and the Austral Islands, under the leadership of the indefatigable Bertrand Richer de Forges. Starting in 2001, the programme

expanded to cover the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Through collaborations and partnerships, Taiwan and the South China Sea, the Philippines, Madagascar and Mozambique were explored from local vessels, and starting in 2014, the Caribbean was finally included in the programme.



Over these 40 years, more than 200 specialists worldwide have been involved in the study of the exceptionally rich and geographically diverse collections generated by the programme. Thanks to the active support of a visiting scientists programme and the unprecedented involvement of numerous citizen scientists, hundreds of research articles and 28 volumes in the eponymous series *Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos* [volume 29 is due October 7] have been published, containing the description of over 3,700 new species. Beside systematists, the success of the *Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos* programme has been rooted in the dedication and know-how of a long chain of persons - from crew and scientists on board the ships, through collection managers, to copy editors.

To celebrate 40 years of *Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos*, a 2-days symposium will take place at the National Museum of Natural History, in Paris, and speakers from Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Russia, the USA and Europe will discuss the discoveries made by the programme and suggest directions for the years ahead. Beside the scientists themselves, the targeted public includes decisions makers from participating research organizations, collection managers, and science journalists.

**Where?** Auditorium of Grande Galerie de l'Evolution, National Museum of Natural History, 36 rue Geoffroy St Hilaire, 75005 Paris.

**When?** Thursday and Friday, October 20-21, 10 am to 6 pm. Lunch and dinner on site for guests and speakers.

**Whom?** Anyone, after registration: <http://www.mnhn.fr/fr/visitez/agenda/colloque/tropical-deep-sea-benthos-fete-40-ans-symposium>