

Scientific Results of the Kumejima Marine Biodiversity Expedition—KUMEJIMA 2009—Editorial*

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This special issue of *Zootaxa* is dedicated to scientific results of a marine biodiversity workshop, Kumejima Marine Biodiversity Expedition — KUMEJIMA 2009. The idea of this expedition was conceived at the end of the year 2008. Following major successes of several Franco-Taiwanese-Singaporean marine biodiversity expeditions in the Philippines (Bouchet *et al.* 2009; Richer de Forges *et al.* 2009), two key participants of these surveys (Drs. Peter K. L. Ng and Tin-Yam Chan) had various discussions on potential future exploration sites in Asia. During that period, the first author was working on an enormous amount of important brachyuran material collected from the Philippine expeditions and realised the potential of such explorations. He expressed a strong interest in conducting similar expeditions at his own field site, the Ryukyu Islands in southwestern Japan. In 2008, together with Dr. Yoshihisa Fujita, he subsequently formally proposed Kumejima (= Kume Island) to Drs. Chan and Ng as the next exploration site. This culminated in a joint Japanese-Singaporean-Taiwanese expedition to Kumejima, which also received full support from the Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.



FIGURE 1. Group photograph of the KUMEJIMA 2009 expedition (9 Nov. 2009) (Photograph courtesy of Yoshihisa Fujita)