

handful of publications, all references predate 1975. Thus, references such as G. U. Lindberg and Z. V. Krasnyukova, 1975, *Fishes of the Sea of Japan*, Zool. Inst. Acad. Nauk SSSR, were omitted. Some classifications are out of date, such as the use of Scopeliformes instead of Myctophiformes (J.S. Nelson's 1975, *Fishes of the world*, is not mentioned). A preliminary report of the deep-sea fishes of the South China Sea by Q. Cheng and M. Tian (1981 *Studia Marina Sinica* 18: 235-275, 32 text-fig., 1 pl.) recently added 34 new records for China.

Obviously *The Fishes of the Islands in the South China Sea* is an important contribution to science and will assist in managing fisheries and educating students. If translated, this and the previously mentioned faunal works would be of great service to western scientists. Canada, which is just develop-

ing the field of aquaculture, could profit from China's centuries of experience.

Readers may be interested to learn that a Chinese Society of Ichthyology was inaugurated 16 October 1979, which bodes well for the continued development of ichthyology in this ichthyologically rich country. A "Transactions of the Chinese Ichthyological Society" will be published by the Society.

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A Study of the Lateral-line Canals System and that of Lorenzini Ampullae and Tubules of Elasmobranchiate Fishes of China

By Yuanling T. Chu and Ching Wen Meng. 1979. Monograph of Fishes of China, No. 2. Shanghai Kexue Jishu Zhubanshe (Shanghai Science and Technology Press), Shanghai. 132 pp. 64 colour plates.

This book, in Chinese, but with a seven page abstract in English, is devoted to the study of the structure and arrangement of the lateral line system, the ampullae and tubules of Lorenzini, and Savi's sacs, as well as the phylogeny of elasmobranchs. The authors describe these epidermis-derived sensory systems in 73 species of sharks, rays, and skates found in the seas of China. They illustrate all but two in colour plates which show the lateral line of the head and often the body in blue, the ampullae and tubules of Lorenzini in red, and Savi's sacs in green. Many of these have never been depicted before. Based on the arrangement of these structures, and referring to the classification system of Woodward (1889, 1891), Jordan (1923), Whiteley (1937), Bigelow and Schroeder (1948-1952), Berg (1955), Romer (1966), Rass and Lindberg (1971), and Compagna (1973), the authors develop a new classification system for Chinese elasmobranchs and present a key and a phylogenetic tree with a geological time scale. Several taxonomic changes are made in their new system. *Galeorhinus japonicus* (Müller et Henle) is removed from Carcharhinidae and placed in Tri-

kidae and *Triaenodon obesus* (Rüppell) from Triakidae to Carcharhinidae; *Rhinobatos granulatus* (Cuvier) is assigned to the genus *Scobatus* and *Dasyatis kuhlii* (Müller et Henle) to *Urolophoides*. A new family Cirrhoscyllidae is created to house *Cirrhoscyllium expolium* Smith and Radcliffe, formerly of Orectolobidae.

Clearly this study makes important contributions to the sensory systems and classification of the Elasmobranchii.

It should be noted that this study appeared 16 years after the first of the series was published (Chu, Lo, and Wu, 1963: A study on the classification of sciaenoid fishes of China, with descriptions of new genera and species). Apparently the Chinese scientists have wasted no time in publishing studies that had been interrupted by the cultural revolution. Other works related to systematics known to us include Fauna Sinica, Economic Fauna of China, and monographs such as *The Fishes of the Islands in the South China Sea*.

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