

Preface: Special Volume of International Symposium of Tropical Fish Ecological Conservation and Biodiversity 2025 (ISTFECB 2025) Part I—Systematics, taxonomy, and species diversity of tropical fishes: contributed papers from ISTFECB 2025

CHIH-WEI CHANG^{1,2} & I-SHIUNG CHEN^{3,4}

¹Marine Ecology and Conservation Research Center, National Academy of Marine Research, Kaohsiung 806614, Taiwan, R.O.C

²National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Pingtung 944401, Taiwan, R.O.C.

✉ changcw@namr.gov.tw; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0659-9582>

³Institute of Marine Biology, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung 202301, Taiwan, R.O.C.

⁴Center of Excellence for the Oceans, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung 202301, Taiwan, R.O.C.

✉ iscfish@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4190-7720>

The International Symposium of Tropical Fish Ecological Conservation and Biodiversity 2025 was held at the National Taiwan Ocean University in Keelung, Taiwan, from May 16–17, 2025. This symposium in 2025 was the subsequent biannual program that was promised to follow the 2023 International Symposium of Tropical Fish Biodiversity and Conservation, which published a series of papers in *Zootaxa* 5550 (Chang *et al.* 2024; Chang & Chen 2024). The entire 2025 symposium featured 17 oral and 25 poster presentations, with about 75 participants from both local and international institutions, including those from Japan, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and New Zealand. Following the 2023 Symposium, the 2025 symposium was also conducted in hybrid format, combining in-person and virtual participation. Most of the overseas participants attended the entire program online except the overseas PhD students in Taiwan.

The research content mostly covered fish systematics, taxonomy, ecology, community research, molecular phylogenetics and phylogeography, mitochondrial genomics, and other relevant topics, as well as fish ecological conservation research and fish ecological surveys. We anticipated promising results from the ISTFECB 2025, and the organizing committee unanimously agreed to adhere to our initial announcements made at the Symposium. We aimed to select all excellent research work by all guest editors. Manuscripts related to tropical fish biodiversity that could be submitted in mid-2025 for review were compiled into a special volume, part I, concerning **systematics, taxonomy, and species diversity of tropical fishes** in *Zootaxa* in December, 2025. Then, we would be working on gathering more manuscripts in 2026 for the special volume part II, mainly focusing on molecular phylogenetics, phylogeographics, and mitogenomic evolution, ontogeny of tropical fishes. This mission in 2025–2026 has been a significant goal and task for all current invited guest editors and reviewers.

After an extended process of submission and review following the 2025 symposium, we finally selected 23 papers published for the Part I of 2025 special volume. These papers described one new genus and 14 new species (comprising nine marine and five inland water fishes), and 14 new records of fish taxa from various countries and localities documented by numerous authors.

The **International Symposium of Tropical Fish Ecological Conservation and Biodiversity 2025** provided a very good chance to share research and exchange creative ideas among many excellent specialists in fish biodiversity and conservation work, veterans and newcomers alike. It also offered new insights into the molecular phylogenetics of fishes. The symposium served as a great platform for encouraging further academic collaboration among fish scholars from all neighboring countries interested in the Indo-Pacific fish biodiversity.

We are very grateful to the Chief Editor, Prof. Z.Q. Zhang, and his very excellent editorial team, for their great help and supporting during the editorial process. We also sincerely express our thanks to all the contributing authors and the many reviewers who participated in producing this special volume. The symposium and the special volume were financially granted from the very kind research support by National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung; National Academy of Marine Research, Kaohsiung and Taiwan Biodiversity Research Institute, Nantou County, Taiwan.

References

- Chang, C.W., Chen, I-S., Yeh, M.F., Shen, K.N. & Wang, S.C. (Eds.) (2024) Special Volume of Tropical Fish Biodiversity. *Zootaxa*, 5550 (1), 1–380.
<https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5550.1.1>
- Chang, C.W. & Chen, I-S. (2024) Preface. Tropical Fish Biodiversity: contributed papers from the 2023 International Symposium of Tropical Fish Biodiversity and Conservation. *Zootaxa*, 5550 (1), 6.
<https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5550.1.3>