

Phylum Sipuncula. - Part 1. A detailed catalogue of valid genera, species, synonyms & erroneous interpretations of sipunculans from the world, with special reference to the Indian Ocean and Thailand.

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ABSTRACT

A literature study of revisions is presented in a catalogue created to overview information on 617 sipunculan taxa described from the world. Specific names of the binomial constitute entries to the catalogue. This system provides quick access to the status of a given species by keeping all information about a given species together. The number of sipunculan taxa was estimated at about 367 in 1972. During two decades of revisions, a group of researchers have reduced the number of valid sipunculan taxa to 146 polytypic species and 17 subspecies. The valid taxa of sipunculans are placed in 17 genera. Each of 5 genera contains only a single species. The 5 most species-rich genera have from 14 to 23 species, viz., *Nephasoma*, *Phascolion*, *Aspidosiphon*, *Phascolosoma*, and *Golfingia*. A total of 169 taxa have been reported during a hundred years of surveys in the Indian Ocean. Today 90 of those taxa are considered synonyms, 15 taxa are species inquirendae etc., while 79 taxa are considered valid. Recent revisions have added 9 species and 2 subspecies to the list of valid taxa, making a total of 90 valid taxa in the Indian Ocean. Specific mention of sipunculans from Thailand only refers to 8 valid species. Considerations in regard of genus and species concepts are discussed together with comments on the number of sipunculan taxa.
