

JAVA SEA PLANKTON AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SPECIALISTS.

The task of the Dutch East Indian Government Laboratory for Marine Investigations (*Laboratorium voor het Onderzoek der Zee*) at Batavia, Pasar Ikan, is to collect data concerning the natural history and the conditions of life of marine animals and especially of those which are of economic value. The ultimate aim is to arrive at a thorough knowledge of the natural factors which influence or might influence the yield of the fisheries or, in other words, to establish a scientific basis for a rational exploitation of the sea.

For practical reasons the work of the laboratory has been confined to the Java Sea, or at least to the shallow, neritic seas of the western half of the Dutch East Indies, which, considered as fishing grounds, are of far more importance than the deep, more oceanic seas of the eastern half of the archipelago.

Especially biological (i. e. ecological), but also physiological and ontogenetical studies concerning the fauna and flora of a given marine area are much facilitated by a previous thorough knowledge as to what species of animals and plants are to be found living in that area.

Whereas the fish fauna of the Dutch East Indies is well known through the work of Dr. P. Bleeker and others, hardly anything is known on the contrary as to what species of animals and plants constitute the plankton of for example the Java Sea.

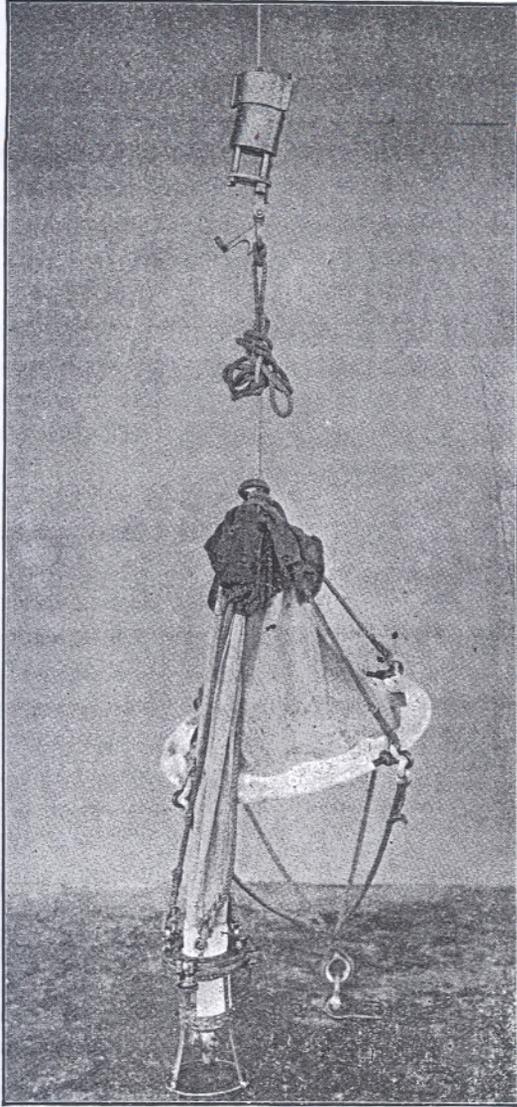
Now there are in the Dutch East Indies no specialists able to undertake the systematic examination and description of the large collections of Java Sea plankton brought together on the cruises of the Dutch East Indian Government Investigation Steamer "Brak".

Moreover it does not appear desirable that the members of the small scientific staff of the Batavia Laboratory for Marine Investigations should apply themselves to the examination and description of the different systematic groups of plankton organisms living in the Java Sea.

Indeed the systematic examination and description of samples of Java Sea plankton can be undertaken in any part of the world where there are specialists who have at their disposal the necessary literature and collections for comparison. On the other hand ecological, physiological and also ontogenetical investigations will generally have to be made at or close by the natural abode of the species of animals and plants to be studied.



Larger vertical closing net, open. Length of the net 4 M., diameter at the entrance 1,3 M., silk gauze no. 3.



Smaller vertical closing net, closed. Length of the net 1,5 M., diameter at the entrance 0,5 M., silk gauze no. 25. The line connecting the closing mechanism and the net has been coiled up.

However, for the examination and description of the different systematic groups, we desire to send material of the Java Sea plankton to those specialists who signify their willingness to undertake the study. The plankton samples, that will be forwarded free of charge, have all been collected with the two vertical closing-nets of Plate IV and Plate V. The net of Plate IV is 4 M. long and 1.3 M. in diameter at the entrance. The filtering surface consists of silk gauze no. 3 (23 threads per 10 mm.) from the Swiss Silk Bolting Cloth Mfg. Co. Ltd. (*Schweizerische Seidengazefabrik A. G.*) at Thal, Ct. St. Gallen, Switzerland.

The net of Plate V is 1.5 M. long and 0.5 M. in diameter at the entrance. In this case the silk gauze no. 25 (77 threads per 10 mm.) from the same factory is used.

Plate IV shows the net as it appears when it is being lowered and hauled in catching plankton organisms. Plate V shows the closed net as it is hauled in catching no more plankton organisms. The closing mechanism of these nets, which has been projected by the undersigned, has always worked perfectly.

The plankton samples have been preserved in seawater-formol, made by the addition of one volume of the commercial aqueous solution of formaldehyde to nineteen or even a few more volumes of sea water.

On request special plankton catches can easily be made during the cruises of the Investigation Steamer "Brak" and the plankton samples thus acquired can be preserved or even fixed with any fluid desired.

As a rule it will be requested that the results of the examination and description of the different systematic groups of the Java Sea plankton shall be published in "Treubia". Authors will receive, however fifty reprints of their publications gratuitously. Of all species, new or previously described, some specimens must be returned to the Batavia Laboratory for Marine Investigations. The cost of returning these will also be paid by the Batavia Laboratory. The bulk of the material can be kept by the specialist who has examined and described it. As to unica it will generally be possible to cede them also to the specialist.

Specialists desiring to examine and describe one or more systematic groups of the Java Sea plankton are kindly requested to write to the undersigned using the following address: *Aan het Hoofd van het Laboratorium voor het Onderzoek der Zee, Pasar Ikan, Batavia, Java, Dutch East Indies.*

Dr. A. L. J. SUNIER.

Head of the Dutch East Indian Government Laboratory
for Marine Investigation.