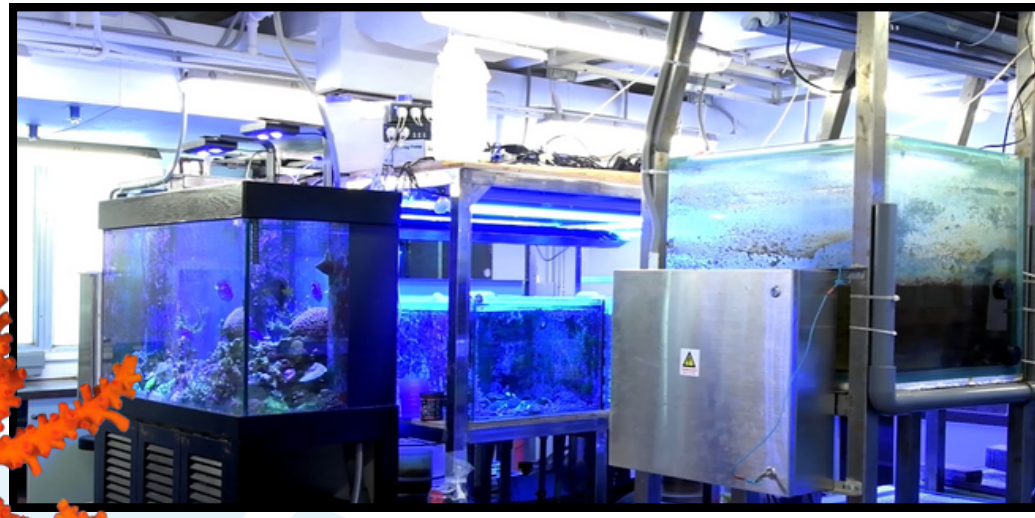
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

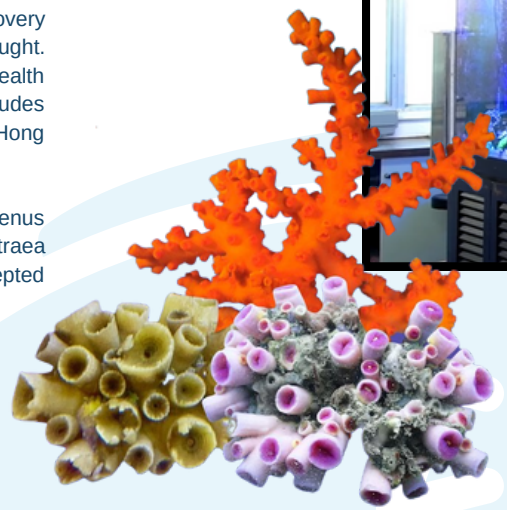


Research

Discovery of Three New Coral Species in Hong Kong Waters

Hong Kong's waters are frequently criticised for being polluted, but a recent discovery from HKBU biologists suggests that our seas are not as bad as we first thought. Professor Qiu Jianwen and his team have been working on a series of coral health research projects in Hong Kong for 8 years, and their scope of the research includes coral bleaching caused by global warming, coral diversity, and coral predators in Hong Kong seas.

They have successfully discovered 3 new sun coral species belonging to the genus Tubastrea, namely Tubastraea dendroida, Tubastraea chloromura and Tubastraea violacea. As a result of the remarkable discovery, the study project has been accepted for publication in the academic journal *Zoological Studies*.



The discovery is very encouraging as it provides strong evidence of the high marine biodiversity in Hong Kong waters, and it helps fill in the knowledge gaps in biodiversity as advocated in the Government's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Professor Qiu Jianwen

FWCI 1.56

In top journals 55%

74 Publications

Professor Qiu Jianwen
Department of Biology

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Research

Unlock the Genomic Secrets of Organisms that Thrive in Extreme Deep-sea Environments

A study led by scientists at HKBU has decoded the genomes of the deep-sea clam (Archivesica marissinica) and the chemoautotrophic bacteria (Candidatus Vesicomyosocius marissinica) that live in its gill epithelium cells. Through analysis of their genomic structures and profiling of their gene expression patterns, the research team revealed that symbiosis between the two partners enables the clams to thrive in extreme deep-sea environments. The research findings have been published in the academic journal *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

Event

Kayak for Marine Service

Plastic, bottles, disposable containers, and even furniture. There is no denying that garbage islands floating could be easily found in Hong Kong's water. To fight against serious marine pollution, Kayak for Marine Service provided three continuous training sessions for our students to equip them with beginning levels of kayaking skills and techniques. After having some basic understanding, students were assigned to collect rubbish on Sharp Island and Yim Tin Tsai in Sai Kung. Also, our students worked hard to promote the importance of environmental protection on campus. Exhibition and game booths were set up to help fellow students understand the hazardous impact of human activities on marine species.