

Copepods: Biology, Taxonomy, and the Discovery of a New Species in Singapore

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In Person at TMSI Conference Room, S2S Building
Level 1, 18 Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119227

Host: Dr Tan Koh Siang

To Register: https://nus-sg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cpsz0QA_T4SGZ5ACTnMIqQ



ABSTRACT:

Copepods dominate the pelagic mesozooplankton community in the marine environment. These tiny crustaceans play crucial roles in the marine ecosystem by transferring energy across trophic levels. In commercial aquaculture, copepods have gained increasing attention as potential live feed supplements for fish and shrimp larvae due to its suitable prey size and promising nutritional value. Understanding copepod morphology, taxonomy and life cycles are fundamental for furthering ecological studies and commercial applications, particularly in the tropics. This seminar provides an overview of copepod biology and the discovery of a new copepod species from Singapore. The new species was distinguished from its congeners based on morphological characteristics and molecular analyses. Culture conditions and nutritional profiles were also examined to assess its potential as live feed for aquaculture applications. These findings highlight the importance of biodiversity studies in Singapore and the potential of locally sourced copepods as live feed candidates for sustainable aquaculture.

About the Speaker:

Yu Xun is a Research Assistant at TMSI. His research focuses on the biodiversity of benthic and pelagic copepods. Previously, he was involved in an aquaculture project to optimize the culture of local copepods as potential aquaculture live feed. He also participated in the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey II, documenting the infauna present in the intertidal sediments of Singapore's Southern Islands. More recently, he took part in the 22-day NUS-OceanX Monsoon Rise Expedition in October 2025, where he documented the biodiversity of pelagic copepods in the Indian Ocean. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Conservation and Wildlife Biology from Murdoch University. With a keen interest in marine biodiversity, Yu Xun believes that understanding local biodiversity will provide a strong baseline for further ecological research, sustainable management, and conservation strategies in Singapore and Southeast Asia.