

All natural historians may have their first memory of collecting organisms in nature which was probably the starting point of their passionate interest in natural history. For me, as I remember, it was back when I was five years old, in a small town in Yokohama, Japan, the place where I spent a part of my childhood. On the way to kindergarten, I walked along a lane lined with mossy stone walls. I was always looking for living things on the walls when I walked to and from kindergarten with my grandmother. When it rained, various sizes of land snails appeared on the walls. On one rainy morning, we found more land snails on the walls than usual. I became rapturously absorbed in collecting them without worrying about being late. As a result, I arrived at kindergarten unusually late, carrying a box full of those slimy animals. I still remember the many extremely excited and delighted faces and glad shouts of my classmates, in contrast to the angry face of my teacher. Personally, when I recall this episode, I feel deeply thankful to my broad-minded and understanding grandmother in permitting me to collect those wonderful animals without complaining about anything—just smiling and watching me. At the same time it reminds me that to do what you are purely interested in, you always need the support of someone who understands you. Another important thing is sharing the “delight of finding” with other human beings. This is probably true and in all fields of science, including natural history. I wish that the NHBSS continues to be a place for sharing the delight of interesting findings in natural history, not only within scientific communities, but with all people who are interested in nature in Southeast Asia, and who might come in contact with a copy of the NHBSS. That is why we try to make the cover attractive.

We apologize for the delay in publishing this first issue of volume 60. The submission rate of manuscripts to the NHBSS is increasing, but we also try hard to maintain the high quality of articles which appear in the NHBSS. As a result, with all the required authors’ revisions and demands of proof-reading, it is difficult to publish issues at the scheduled time. However, we are proud to deliver this issue which contains interesting and important articles on relatively diverse groups of animals: a crustacean, amphibians and birds. We always welcome submissions of interesting manuscripts of studies on the natural history of Southeast Asia from scientists all over the world.

This year, the NHBSS has reached the age of 100 years. We are planning to have an academic symposium and special issue in the latter term of the next year to celebrate this special moment. A concrete schedule and details of this very special event will be announced on the website of the Siam Society as well as in the forthcoming issue of the NHBSS.

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Honorary Editor

