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Calcareous sponges of Indonesia

ROB W.M. VAN SOEST* & NICOLE J. DE VOOGD
Naturalis Biodiversity Center, P.O. Box 9617, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands,
E-mail: rob.vansoest@naturalis.nl; nicole.devoogd@naturalis.nl
**Corresponding author*

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Abstract

The calcareous sponges collected during Indonesian-Dutch research projects, incorporated in the collections of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (formerly the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie and the Zoölogisch Museum of the University of Amsterdam), are described and discussed. A total of 37 species were distinguished, of which 16 are new to science, while several others are very poorly known. The new species are *Clathrina purpurea* **sp.nov.**, *Clathrina beckingae* **sp.nov.**, *Clathrina sororcula* **sp.nov.**, *Arthuria tubuloreticulosa* **sp.nov.**, *Ernstia indonesiae* **sp.nov.**, *Ernstia chrysops* **sp.nov.**, *Ernstia klautauae* **sp.nov.**, *Ernstia naturalis* **sp.nov.**, *Ascandra kakaban* **sp.nov.**, *Ascandra crewsi* **sp.nov.**, *Ascaltis angusta* **sp.nov.**, *Pericharax orientalis* **sp.nov.**, *Sycetta vinitincta* **sp.nov.**, *Anamixilla singaporensis* **sp.nov.**, *Grantessa borojevici* **sp.nov.** and *Grantessa tenhoveni* **sp.nov.** An additional six species reported from Indonesia, but not represented in our material, are briefly characterized.

Keywords: Porifera, Calcarea, new species,South East Asia, Indonesia

Introduction

Indonesia and surrounding region, often named the Coral Triangle (e.g. Hoeksema 2007; 2013), comprises a generally recognized biodiversity hotspot. For most marine animal groups, the region shows enhanced numbers of higher and lower taxa, and especially for sessile biota the area is the richest of all oceans (Briggs 1974). Sponges are probably no exception, although this is obscured by a distinct research effort bias (Van Soest *et al.* 2013). Whereas quite a lot of data has been published for the region on the largest sponge class, the Demospongiae Sollas (1885) (cf. Van Soest 1989; Van Soest 1997; Hooper *et al.* 2002), the information on diversity in the Coral Triangle of one of the smaller classes, the rather enigmatic Calcarea Bowerbank, 1864 is largely lacking. In fact, the World Porifera Database (Van Soest *et al.* 2015) lists only 12 'accepted' species from Indonesia, which comprise the species originally described ('endemics') from Indonesia. Earlier, Haeckel (1872) described three species from