

Gregory N. Nishihara : 12 years of Phycological research

In 1999, after doing two years of study as a Master's student at Kagoshima University, I was ready to go back to Hawaii. However, one afternoon Prof. Tadahide Noro asked me if I was interested staying a while longer in Kagoshima and work in his laboratory studying macroalgae. He mentioned that it would be a lot of "fun." With those words, I joined his lab in 2000 and became a member of The Japanese Society of Phycology (JSP) the following year. It is worth noting that in 2000, Dr. Ryuta Terada (presently Associate Professor at Kagoshima University) also joined the Faculty of Fisheries at Kagoshima University as an Assistant Professor.

Learning new techniques, quite different from the ones I used as a Masters Student, took time. The once-a-month field surveys done at Amami Oshima Is. and Bandokorobana Park of Kagoshima Prefecture was a great way to get in the water and experience what is was like to conduct a field survey. From the techniques I learned, I created monocultures of *Laurencia brongniartii*, and built my own product-meter to collect data on oxygen production. I even managed to go on a 3 week cruise on the *T/S Keiten-Maru* to Ulithi Atoll and Yap Is. where I got a chance to survey many different varieties of coastal communities. In the three short years as a Doctoral student, I managed to publish 4 papers, with my first one in Phycological Research.

Since then, I have been to Canada to do my first postdoc and came back to Kagoshima to do my second postdoc in the Marine Botany Lab of Kagoshima University. There, I worked with Dr. Terada to examine how water affects macroalgae physiology, and managed to get enough data to publish another paper in Phycological Research.

Now I am an Associate Professor at Nagasaki University and I am still examining macroalgae physiology. However, rather than on an individual scale, my laboratory is trying to directly measure primary production in entire canopies of *Sargassum* forests and seagrass meadows. We do this by applying sophisticated modeling techniques using Bayesian methods and a variety of dataloggers, and we have accumulated quite a lot of data to analyze and hopefully publish. However, in the mean time I have published two more papers in Phycological Research regarding



species distribution and dispersion, with one being presented a best paper award.

My colleagues here at Nagasaki University often wonder why I choose to publish my papers in Phycological Research. I tell them that the internet makes it easy to read papers from many journals, and so it really doesn't matter where you publish your paper. If it is a good paper, people will read it and cite it.

As an active member of JSP, I expect to continue publishing good papers in Phycological Research and I especially encourage all of our younger members to seriously consider Phycological Research as the home for their hard earned data.

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