

Akekawat VITHEEPRAKIT

Assistant Professor Dr.

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ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์ ดร.



Currents Research Topics

- The Diversity of Aquatic Insects at Kaeng Kachan National Park
- The diversity and phylogeography of aquatic and semiaquatic true bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) in the mangrove area in the Eastern Region of Thailand
- Species and genetic diversity of mangrove aquatic insects in the Gulf of Thailand, Thailand
- Diversity and habitat preference of giant water bugs (Belostomatidae: Lethocerinae) of Thailand
- The comparative phylogeography of ten sympatric widespread heteropteran pest across East Asia

Teaching/Research Fields

Insect Systematics (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)

Insect Biogeography and Phylogeography

Aquatic Insect as Bioindicators

Insect Biodiversity and Conservation

Contact Information

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Education

1996

B.S. (Integrated Pest Management)

Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

2000

M.S. (Entomology)

University of Missouri, Columbia, USA

2008

Ph.D. (Entomology)

University of Missouri, Columbia, USA

Synopsis

Biodiversity at any of its hierarchical levels (ecosystems, taxa, and genes), are distributed heterogeneously across the Earth, with certain areas displays higher biodiversity values than others. Understanding the biodiversity patterns and the mechanisms underlying them at different spatial scales and through distinctive approaches are key issues to establish conservation priorities. Thailand is located in the center of Conservation International's Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. The Thai insect fauna has long been known to be especially rich and represents the overlapping subbiogeographic regions, which include the Indochina and Sundaland faunas, and unify with the Himalayan elements in the northwest. Given the inferred large proportion of undescribed species and higher richness, the paucity of surveys, and continuing habitat destruction in tropical areas, including Thailand, the insect fauna of these regions is more threatened than are those of temperate regions.

The focus of research in my laboratory is to study of the systematics and biodiversity of aquatic insects, especially aquatic true bugs (Heteroptera) based on both morphological and DNA sequence data. Furthermore, we investigate the distributions and the genetic structures among population of insects to determine the effect of disturbances in aquatic systems. Also, we develop the use of aquatic and terrestrial insects as bioindicators to measure the environmental impacts.

Selected Publications

Vittheerpradit, A. and R. W. Sites. 2007. A review of *Ptilomera* (Heteroptera: Gerridae) of Thailand with descriptions of three new species. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 100: 139-151.

Vittheerpradit, A. and R. W. Sites. 2007. A review of *Eotrechus* Kirkaldy (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) of Thailand with descriptions of three new species. *Zootaxa* 1478 : 1-19.

- R. W. Sites and **A. Vitheepradit**. 2007. *Namtokocoris*, a new genus of Naucoridae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) in waterfalls of Indochina, with descriptions of six new species. *Zootaxa* 1588: 1-29.
- Ferro, M., R. W. Sites, and **A. Vitheepradit**. 2009. Contributions to the faunistics of Odonata in Thailand. *Insecta Mundi* 0104:1-24
- Sites, R. W. and **A. Vitheepradit**. 2010. Recovery of the freshwater lentic insect fauna in Thailand following the tsunami of 2004. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* 58(2): 329-348.
- Sites, R. W. and **A. Vitheepradit**. 2011. *Heleocoris* (Heteroptera: Naucoridae: Laccocorinae) of Thailand, with description of a new species. *Zootaxa* 2736: 1-16.
- Jaikla, S., N. Pinkae, **A. Vitheepradit**, and N. Klangsap, 2013. Two new species of *Fibuloides* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) from eastern Thailand. *Zootaxa*, 3664: 85-91.
- Novelo-Gutierrez, R., R. W. Sites, and **A. Vitheepradit**. 2014. New province record of *Rhinagrion* for Thailand and description of the larva of *R. mima* (Odonata: Zygoptera: Philosinidae). *Zootaxa*, 3852 : 562-568.
- Raruanyong, S., **A. Vitheepradit**, and R. W. Sites. 2014. Key to the species of Ptilomerinae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) of Thailand and review of the fauna of the Tennaserim Mountain Range. *Zootaxa*, 3852 : 101-117.
- Nakthong, L., **A. Vitheepradit**, and R. W. Sites. 2014. Key to the species of Eotrechinae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) of Thailand and review of the fauna of the Phetchabun Mountain Range. *Zootaxa*, 3860 : 47-63.
- A. Vitheepradit**. A new species of *Namtokocoris* Sites (Hemiptera: Naucoridae) from Thailand. *Zootaxa* 4320: 592-596.