

THE OVULIDAE OF JEJU ISLAND

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Jeju Island, because of its location off the south coast of the Korean peninsula, has a varied marine mollusk fauna. As part of a continuing effort to enumerate and study the mollusks of the island, extensive SCUBA diving surveys have been done in the Sogwipo area, particularly around the islets of Munsom, Pomsum, and Supsum. Most of the diving was concentrated on Munsom, which has a rather rich fauna.

Literature covering the mollusks of Korea have listed only two or three species of the family Ovulidae. However, as a result of our field surveys, a total of twenty six species have now been identified as part of the Korean fauna. Koh Dong Bum, a member of our survey team, conducted these dives over a period of about two years, from April, 2001 to February, 2003. The specimens were found at depths ranging from five to twenty-five meters, and were collected mainly from soft corals which are abundant in the area.

Future studies in the biology and taxonomy of this family will undoubtedly result in revisions to the nomenclature of these species. More fieldwork may also uncover even more species of those interesting mollusks.