

**GREEN FLUORESCENCE PROTEIN (GFP) DETECTED IN A MEDUSA OF  
*ATORELLA VANHOEFFENI* (CNIDARIA, SCYPHOZOA, CORONATAE)  
IN JAPAN**

By

**Shin KUBOTA<sup>1</sup> and Ryo MINEMIZU<sup>2</sup>**

**Abstract**

Green fluorescence protein (GFP) is detected in a coronate scyphomedusa of *Aurelia vanhoeffeni* collected from Osezaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.

**Introduction**

Epi-fluorescence microscopic observations of individuals of scyphomedusae and scyphopolyps do not usually demonstrate distribution of green fluorescence protein (GFP) as is also rare in hydrozoans (Kubota 2011, 2012; Kubota & Gravili 2011). In the present study, however apparent GFP distribution is found in a coronate medusa of *Aurelia vanhoeffeni* collected in Japan.

**Materials and Methods**

By SCBA diving at Osezaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, medusae (two males and one immature medusa) of *Aurelia vanhoeffeni* were captured again (see Kubota 2008; Kubota *et al.* 2012) on December 20, 2013 in the depth of ca 50 cm. The seawater temperature was 15°C. These living specimens were placed in a depression slide glass soon after collection and their fluorescence distribution pattern was observed under an epi-fluorescence microscope (Nikon ECLIPSE 80i, Japan) with blue light excitation (using the B-2A filter set), and photographed (Plate 1).

**Results and Discussion**

In all three medusa specimens of *Aurelia vanhoeffeni* here examined (Table 1), green fluorescence protein (GFP) is detected in all (four) gonads and swollen tip of all (six) tentacles as shown in Plate 1, Figs A-B. GFP distribution might be common in the coronate medusae (see Kubota 2012, unpublished data).

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1. Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Field Science Education and Research Center, Kyoto University, 459 Shirahama, Nishimuro, Wakayama, 649-2211 Japan  
e-mail: kubota.shin.5e@kyoto-u.ac.jp
  2. Ryo Minemizu Photo Office, 101-224-1 Yahata, Shimizu Suntou-gun, Shizuoka, 411-0906 Japan

Table 1. Morphology of *Atorella vanhoeffeni* from Osezaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan

Umbrellar diameter (mm)	No. of tentacles	No. of gonads	No. of sensory organ	No. of gastric filaments	Sex
8.6	6	4	6	10, 10, 10, 9	Male
7.3	6	4	6	8, 7, 7, ?*	Male
6.4	6	4	6	9, 8, 7, 0**	Immature

\*: not determined \*\*: absent

### References

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### Explanation of plate 1

Figures A-B: Green fluorescence images of medusa of *Atorella vanhoeffeni* collected from Osezaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.

