

S34-6 What is the motivation of your study on marine natural products?

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"What is the motivation of your study on marine natural products?" If I were asked such a question, I would immediately answer. "Because I love sea." It has been difficult for human being to investigate the marine organisms living at the depth of more than 10 m because of the obstruction by seawater. Recent invention of the scuba gears made it possible for scientists to dive into sea down to 30 m and to collect curious marine organisms or to observe their modes of life. A number of novel marine natural products have been found during 1980-1990, and it seems that no more new compounds might be obtained from marine creatures. But just think of the products of a celestial plant. Due to its easy accessibility, the components of one particular plant have been repeatedly investigated from long time ago, and even now new products having remarkable structures are being discovered from the same plant. Considering the difficulty to access the marine organisms, one can say that investigation of marine organisms is still at its primitive stage. Field works at sea sides such as Okinawa were quite joyous for me. Contrast of the cobalt blue sea to white coral sand! Cold beer after the hard works of diving and collection of marine animals and plants! These were the real driving forces of me to study marine natural products.