

PREFACE

The present volume of the *National Museum of Nature and Science Monographs* is composed of 18 papers dealing with the results of the project research entitled “Deep-sea Fauna and Pollutants off Pacific Coast of Northern Japan”. This research is the forth project of the research project series “Study on Deep-Sea Fauna and Conservation of Deep-Sea Ecosystems” started in 1993 by the National Museum of Nature and Science (formerly National Science Museum). Results of previous researches in Suruga Bay, Tosa Bay and the waters around the Nansei Islands were already published in the Monographs.

In this project research, invertebrates and fishes were intensively collected in the deep waters off the Pacific coast of northern Japan. The work was carried out mainly by the R/Vs *Wakataka-maru* and *Soyo-maru* of the Fisheries Research Agency, and R/V *Tansei-maru* of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, during the years 2005–2008. Using the abundant material collected, deep-sea animals and pollutants were studied by the participating scientists of the Museum and the other research institutes and universities.

On behalf of the participants in this project, I would like to express my cordial thanks to the staff and crew of R/Vs *Wakataka-maru*, *Soyo-maru* and *Tansei-maru*, the staff of the Tohoku National Fisheries Research Institute and National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, and many scientists on board for their helpful cooperation in obtaining the specimens. Finally, I am most grateful to the Director-General of the National Museum of Nature and Science, Mr. Masamine Sasaki, and the administration staff for their financial and logistic support of this project research.

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