

***Gershwinia thailandensis* Wutthituntisil, Xiao and Aungtonya:
A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF BOX JELLYFISH (Cubozoa: Carybdeida: Carukiidae)
FROM THAI WATERS**

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ABSTRACT: Specimens of a species of box jellyfish were collected from the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand. The specimens were characterized by having cuboid bell shape, no gastric phacellae; pedalial bends volcano-shaped, broad pedalial canal where it joints flattened tentacle; inner keel greatly rounded. The frown-shaped rhopaliar niche ostium and presence of rhopaliar horns suggest the most appropriate placement is as a member of the family Carukiidae (Irukandji family), but additionally it is distinct from the currently described genera. Molecular analyses contextualizing these specimens with exemplars of other genera in this family is consistent with evidence from morphological traits suggesting that the lineage is distinct. Here, we present measurements and descriptions of the morphological features, photographs, and phylogenetic relationships of this new genus and species, *Gershwinia thailandensis* Wutthituntisil, Xiao and Aungtonya.

Key words: morphological study, molecular analysis, Andaman Sea, Gulf of Thailand