

**FIRST RECORD OF BOX JELLYFISH *Morbakka virulenta* (Kishinouye, 1910)
(Carybdeida: Carukiidae) FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT: A total of 39 specimens from 21 lots of box jellyfish, genus *Morbakka* in the PMBC Reference Collection were gathered from the coastal areas of the Gulf of Thailand: Trat, Rayong, Chonburi, Samut Songkhram, Phachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, and Narathiwat Provinces. Morphological characters revealed that all specimens belong to one species, *Morbakka virulenta* (Kishinouye, 1910), characterized by having exumbrella taller than wide, flat apex with warts; inner pedial canal broaden at tentacle base with straight inner keel, well developed ‘spike’ in bend of pedial canal, thorn-like; and. The morphological study was supported by the result from the molecular analysis using 16S and 18S DNA sequences. It is noted that this is the first record of *M. virulenta* from Thai water.

Keywords: Morphological characters, *Morbakka virulenta*, Gulf of Thailand, 16S, 18S