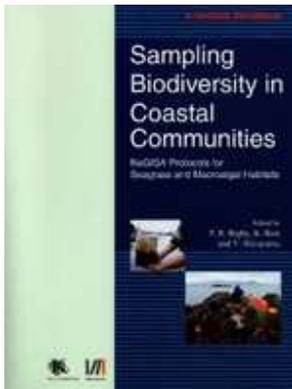




A NaGISA Handbook



Sampling Biodiversity in Coastal Communities

- NaGISA Protocols for Seagrass and Macroalgal Habitats -

P. Robin Rigby, Katrin Iken and Yoshihisa Shirayama eds.

[Kyoto University Press](#); 145 pages;
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The near shore as seen through the eyes of NaGISA. Whether you are planning to sample the coast for the first time or are a long time NaGISA participant reviewing your techniques before conducting your annual survey, we trust you will find this text useful. You will find the basic steps and procedures used to conduct standardized biodiversity studies in coastal rocky shore and seagrass communities along with introductory chapters to biodiversity, macroalgae and seagrass ecology. Written by premier coastal ecologists and taxonomists it has been organized as a text for field courses, a manual for coastal managers or alternatively as a reference guide for researchers studying biodiversity, attempting to inventory species or monitor their own local areas.

Chapters on the concepts of biodiversity, benthic ecology and data management compliment the descriptions of habitat-based protocols that have been developed by researchers over the past 10 years. The NaGISA protocols given here represent the minimum standard by which biodiversity can be monitored on a global scale and are explained with the help of flow charts and diagrams to ease their replication. Following the standardized protocols are guides on how to prepare and identify specific taxonomic groups. These groups have been outlined for special attention, in some cases because it is fairly simple to do, in others because it has never been done, but most often because their study will reveal fundamental aspects of the benthic ecosystem. The guides have been written with the intent of instructing life science students and researchers on handling specimens outside of their own field of expertise. The introductory tone is continued through out the text and highlighted with the inclusion of a glossary and compilation of selected references, field checklists and example data sheets, included to ease even the newest researchers transition into the field.

The global study of benthic communities requires international cooperation and the proliferation of standardized techniques. Although we initially selected two globally occurring habitats as our standard we have been inundated with requests to authenticate protocols for a variety of costal habitats. We include some of these as supplementary protocols here as they compliment our overall goals including the elucidation of a baseline of global biodiversity. We hope they will be of some assistance to those who wish to go over and above the global minimum.

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