

ASAMUSHI SYMPOSIUM ON MARINE BIOLOGY THE FOURTH YEAR SYMPOSIUM ON THE LIVING ORGANISMS OF THE ANTARCTIC REGION

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The Asamushi Symposium on Marine Biology was initiated by the members of the Biological Institute and of the Marine Biological Station of Asamushi, both of the Tôhoku University. The first symposium was held on 30th May, 1958. Recorded in this number are the proceedings of the symposium of the fourth year, On the Living Organisms of the Antarctic Region, held on 11th November, 1961.

Fortunately we had an opportunity, by the courtesy of Mr. Tasurô Matsuda of the third and of Dr. Hiroshi Fukushima of the fourth Japanese Research Expedition, to study some plankton, ice, lumps of moss and of algae brought back in frozen state from Ongul Islands and adjacent area. These are inhabited by small animals and protozoa. Four of the six papers presented in the symposium are the records of the observations and experiments made on these materials.

The Antarctic Region is one of the very interesting and attractive places for biologist, because various kinds of living organisms withstand the severe cold during the long and dark winter season. Confidently it may be said that the solution of many problems on the organisms living under these special climatic conditions furnishes the key to an understanding of the fundamental problems in biology.

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