

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Science Diliman* features four main articles and two short communications.

The first research article offers a solution to a basic problem in color symmetry—the classification of symmetrically colored symmetrical patterns. The paper presented a method of determining the non-trivial colorings of perfect and transitive 2-uniform tilings, and looked into the equivalence of the obtain colorings. The second article studied surface migration kinetics of chemical additives in vulcanized natural rubber compounds, as a function of ingredient loading.

The third article is a contribution from the UP Biology Invertebrate Museum, accounting accessioned collections and reporting the availability of these collections to the community of researchers studying invertebrates. These collections were assessed in terms of taxonomic scope, geographical range, and chronological breadth. The fourth article is a discussion on a widespread parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*; specifically, its seroprevalence in stray and domestic cats in Metro Manila, along with risk factors associated with its seropositivity.

The two short communications tackle the geochemistry of a mining site, and a nematode parasite infection in a snail species from Mindanao.



The *Science Diliman* community would also like to congratulate four distinguished scientists, Academicians Gavino C. Trono, Angel C. Alcala, Ramon C. Barba, and Edgardo D. Gomez, for being conferred the rank and title of National Scientist by President Benigno S. Aquino III by virtue of Malacañang Proclamation Nos. 737, 782, 783, and 843 on 12 August 2014 at the Malacañang Palace, in recognition of their outstanding works and contributions to science and technology in the country.

Academician Trono was recognized for his extensive studies on the culture of seaweed species, which benefited numerous people among the coastal populations. He identified and described 25 new species of marine benthic algae and successfully implemented 45 research projects, which resulted in the publication of 142 scientific papers. He established the largest phycological herbarium in the country—the G.T. Velasquez Herbarium in the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines, which houses more than 70,000 herbarium specimens of the seaweed flora.

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Academician Alcala was recognized for his seminal research on the systematics, ecology, and conservation of vertebrates, particularly in herpetology, by providing valuable basic knowledge on the country's rich biodiversity and ecology. He served as pioneer scientist and advocate in the protection of coral reefs leading to a national policy and program that established the no-take marine reserves, a specific type of marine protected area (MPA) set aside by the government where no extractive activity is allowed.

Academician Barba was recognized for his distinguished achievements in the field of plant physiology, specifically on the induction of flowering of mango and on micropropagation of important crop species that have earned him national and international accolades. His pioneering work on the induction of flowering and fruiting of mango resulted in the change from the seasonal supply of fresh fruits to all year round availability of abundant fresh mangoes.

Academician Gomez was recognized for his sterling contributions in invertebrate biology and ecology, giant clam culture and restoration, and coral reef assessment and conservation. He steered the world's first national-scale assessment of damage to coral reefs that led to worldwide conservation initiatives, such as the Global Reefs and Risk Analysis, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, and the International Coral Reef Action. He shepherded the development of the Marine Science Institute (MSI) at the University of the Philippines (UP), where he served as the founding director.

It is important to note that NS Trono, NS Barba, and NS Gomez are UP professors. NS Alcala had research collaborations with UP Marine Science Institute and was a consultant to the institute in the late 1980s.

We in the *Science Diliman* are very proud of the new national scientists. More power to them.


Marco Nemesio E. Montaña, PhD
Editor-in-Chief