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Benthos Research

NEWS

# Kimberley marine life under the microscope

CLAY Bryce has a fascination with the Kimberley's marine fauna.

As WA Museum's senior project manager, Mr Bryce - who has devoted the past 30 years of his life to investigating marine life around the world - was presenting public lectures on the marine biodiversity of the Kimberley in Perth and Fremantle last week.

Mr Bryce said that his current project regarding the Kimberley involved collecting all research data on Kimberley marine life since 1976.

"The project involves going back through about 19,000 specimens of marine life found in the Kimberley since the 70s," he said. "This collected data helps us to refine our research so we can focus on specific areas or parts of the Kimberley's marine life."

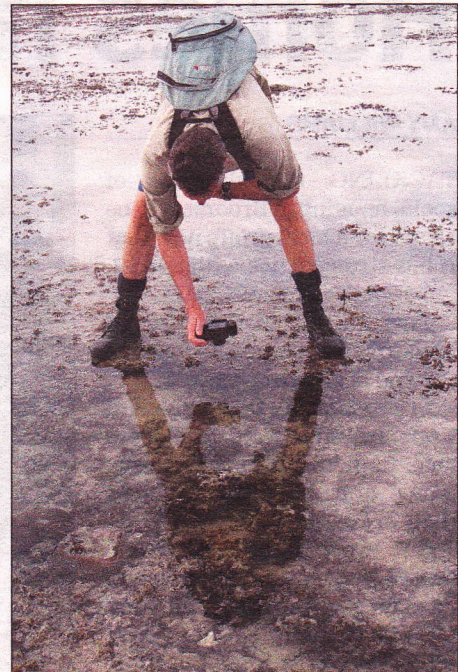
The data will be used to focus the team's research during a trip to the region in October.

The recent discovery of the bearded velvetfish on Adele Island and Montgomery Reef in the North Kimberley was made during an expedition led by Mr Bryce to the remote atolls last year.

The trip involved 12 scientists, with fields of expertise covering the majority of marine life, surveying 27 locations across both atolls.

Preliminary assessments of samples taken during the trip suggest four new species crustaceans, two new species of brittle stars and a new species of coral which were previously unknown.

The trip also yielded a large number of new recordings of species not previously found in Australia.



Clay Bryce surveying rock pools on Montgomery Reef in the WA Museum's expedition to the area last October.