

Observation on the feeding of Nudibranch *Phyllidia varicosa* Lamarck, 1801 on the sponge *Axinyssa* cf. *aculeata* Wilson, 1925 in coral reefs of Pramuka Island, Thousand Island National Park, Indonesia

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Abstrak

During three months period observations (November 16 to January 13, 2001) in coral reefs of Pramuka Island

Indonesia, the nudibranch *Phyllidia varicosa* was observed while feeding on the sponge *Axinyssa* cf. *aculeata*. During

feeding, *P. varicosa* extended externally the pharyngeal bulb onto the sponge causing visible somatic damage. The

behaviors of contracting the body and retracting the rhinopores inside the rhinotube were also observed while feeding.

Observations on the feeding of *Phyllidia varicosa* on the sponge *Axinyssa* cf. *aculeata* and the presence of a visible

somatic damage on the prey due to predation are reported for the first time.