An update of distribution, habitats and densities of *Neotricula aperta*, snail intermediate host of blood fluke, *Schitosoma mekongi* in Thailand

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Schistosomiasis is an important global, public health important parasitic disease cause by Schistosoma trematode. *Schistosoma mekongi* is found along Mekong River and some of its tributaries in Cambodia and Lao PDR. The freshwater snail, *Neotricula aperta* (Pomatiopsidae) is intermediate host for human blood fluke *Schistosoma mekongi*. In Thailand, the former known habitat of *N.aperta* was in Mun and Mekong River in Ubon Ratchatani. Until 2010 survey, we reported a new population and habitat type in Nong Khai upstream from the previously known site of this species. In 2014-2015 more intensive survey of *N.aperta* along Mekong River was conducted and total of 18 *N.aperta* habitats were identify along Mekong River in Ubon Ratchathani, Amnat Charoen, Nakhon Panom, Nong Khai and Loei.

The habitats of *N.aperta* in most sampling sites were in the islet of Mekong River. The bottom of the river or the islet type included bedrock, rock, pebble, sand, sandy soil, silt and muddy bottom. *N.aperta* needs substrate (rock) to attach. In some sampling sites, not only the natural rock was found, but also the rock that use for making river bank protection.

The habitat of *N.aperta* in Mun River was known from the lower Mun River, Ubon Ratchatani Province. The survey in 4 rapids of Phibun Mungsahan district, Ubon Ratchatani during 2009, found 2 of 4 habitats of *N.aperta*. From recent malacological survey in Mekong and Mun River during 2015-2017, we update the distribution, habitats and densities of *Neotricula aperta* in Thailand and identified the habitat where the occasion of human-*N.aperta* inhabited water can occur.

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