



The University of Hong Kong
School of Biological Sciences

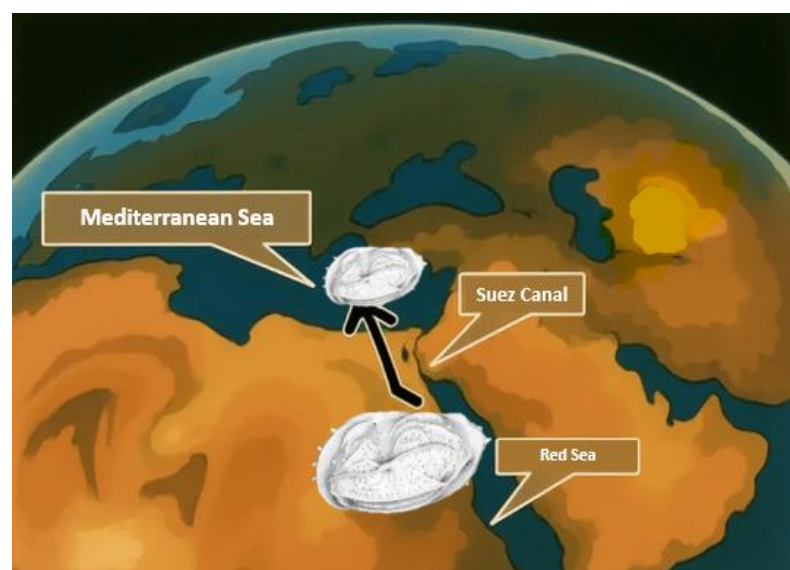
**Qualifying
Seminar**

Tracing Lessepsian Migration Through Ostracod Fossil Records

Date: 24th April 2025 (Thu)

Time: 1500

Venue: 3N-01



About the speaker:

Lalita Weerachai is a PhD candidate under the supervision of Prof. Moriaki Yasuhara and Prof. Ryan McKenzie. Her research focuses on using microfossils to understand biological invasions in the Mediterranean-Red Sea region.



Abstract:

This research project examines Lessepsian migration—the movement of marine species from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean following the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869—through the lens of ostracod microfossils. Despite extensive research on larger invasive species, significant knowledge gaps persist regarding microscopic organisms and historical invasion. Ostracods present an ideal study subject due to their excellent fossilization potential and high abundance in small sediment samples. This study follows four parts: (1) establishing baseline diversity through analysis of Red Sea ostracod assemblages; (2) documenting contemporary invasions via surface sediment sampling across the Mediterranean; (3) reconstructing historical migration patterns through sediment core analysis; and (4) synthesizing spatial and temporal invasion dynamics.

This research addresses critical questions about the timing, patterns, and ecological implications of Lessepsian migration. By examining ostracod fossil records spanning pre- and post-canal periods, they potentially serve as a model for understanding and predicting marine ecosystem responses to anthropogenic modifications and climate change.