



Exhibition and Breeding of Jellyfish in Enoshima Aquarium

Ausstellung und Zucht von Quallen im Enoshima Aquarium



Aya Adachi *

Enoshima Aquarium, 2-19-1 Katasekaigan, Fujisawa 251-0035, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan

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Abstract

Even today there is still a lot to learn regarding the biology of the diverse group of coelenterates. With a better knowledge the husbandry can be improved, too. Only since less than 40 years it is possible to keep and cultivate corals, and since almost 50 years some jellyfish species can be kept and bred successfully in an aquarium. But nevertheless it is still difficult to breed certain other jellyfish species for prolonged periods of time.

The Enoshima Aquarium, which was opened in 1954, tried right from its beginning to be a pioneer amongst the Japanese aquariums for new husbandry and exhibition methods (Fig. 1). In the 1970s the Enoshima Aquarium became famous also outside of Japan for the trained fish shows (Gewalt, 1973). But already in 1973 the Enoshima Aquarium started to exhibit Moon jellyfish for the regular exhibition. Today 50 jellyfish species are shown in the exhibition.

Keywords: Asakusa Aquarium; Enoshima Aquarium; Ueno Aquarium; Osaka-Sakai Aquarium; Moon Jellyfish; Microaquarium

Introduction

Because of Japan's close connection to the sea and its long tradition in fishery, the interest of the Japanese people in the underwater life is more intensive and aquariums are more popular than in most other countries. Today more than 70 aquariums are organized

*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: adati@enosui.com



Fig. 1. Brochure of the old Enoshima Aquarium. Photo: Enoshima Aquarium.

in JAZA (Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums), but not all large aquariums are JAZA members. Aquariums are popular in Japan not only today, they have a long tradition. As an island country, Japan has a history and culture that are inseparably tied to the sea. Not surprisingly, aquariums are both numerous and popular attractions found across the country. Many of these are modern facilities, with new aquariums still being built and older ones renovated, which typically feature a large main tank as well as some focus on local marine and aquatic habitats.

As early as 1882 the Ueno Zoo, which is the oldest zoo in Japan, had opened its first small freshwater aquarium. It was already then an excellent aquarium equipped with 15 tanks. Because the Japanese language had at this time no word or sign for “aquarium”, this section was called “Uonozoki – Fish watching room”.

In 1897 the Kobe-Wadamisaki Aquarium opened its doors as a temporary exhibition. It was the first aquarium which used a circulating filter system in Japan.

Only two years later the private Asakusa Aquarium was opened to the public in October 1899. It was the fourth aquarium in Japan and located in the 4th district of Asakusa Park in Tokyo. It was already constructed for commercial purpose. They sometimes held a water show in which female divers put on the traditional red underskirt and danced together with the fish. The upper floors of the building were used for the Casino Folies Revue.

In 1903, the first modern aquarium in Japan, the Osaka-Sakai Aquarium, was opened for the 5th domestic Industrial Exhibition and provided great facilities. Like all the other old aquariums this aquarium does no longer exist. There are only old photos and a large statue

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