

Project Update: August 2018

From February 2017 to July 2018, my team conducted two sampling campaigns in Ca Mau and Kien Giang provinces to collect *Ulva* specimens. Water quality (salinity, nitrate and phosphate concentration) has been recorded for over 30 locations and nearly 100 specimens have been collected in both natural and aquaculture settings.

These specimens have been preliminary sorted out by morphology using Olympus BX41 microscope at Institute of Tropical Biology, Vietnam. Morphological identification was based mainly on two reference books "Marine algae of South Vietnam" (Pham 1969) and "Flora of Vietnam" (Nguyen 2007). Since these materials were not frequently updated, the guidebook of Australia to *Ulva* species was also used as a reference but all these combinations were not able to determine most of the specimen to species level. It might be indication that the diversity of *Ulva* genus in Vietnam was overlooked.

To assist morphological identification, DNA from aforementioned specimens has been extracted and will be sequenced using a nuclear gene ITS and two chloroplast genes, namely *rbcl* and *tufA* genetic.