

nudibranch NEWS 2:11

Feature Creature

Jorunna sp2.



An undescribed species which appears to be wide spread throughout the Indo-West Pacific and possibly into South African waters.

See Bill Rudman's site for more information. <http://www.austmus.gov.au/seaslugs/jorusp2.htm>

Editor's Notes...

This month's issue is a little late due to problems out of our control. The computer has been playing up since water leaked into our office. This whole issue had to be reset into another font which changed the layout.

Next month is the final issue for Volume 2. In September Vol. 3 will start. At the end of each volume I ask all readers to email me to let me know they want to continue receiving the newsletter. This helps to keep the mailing list current and stops me sending newsletters to out of date addresses.

We should be back to normal next issue.



Feedback

I had a really nice dive off Talc Head, here in Darwin Harbour, on Thursday and spent yesterday processing the specimens. I saw/collected the following species:

Ceratosoma trilobatum

Phyllidiella pustulosa

Pteraeolidia ianthina

Glossodoris cincta

Flabellinarubrolineata

Dermatobranchus sp.

Mexichromis macropus

Hypselodoris sp.

Chromodoris fidelis

Acanthodoris sp.

But my best find was not a nudibranch at all - it was a perfect freshly dead shell of the murex *Pterynotus bednalli*.

Richard Willan. Darwin Australia

Bruce Potters Feature

The ethnic troubles have curtailed my diving for a couple of weeks, but I went to my favourite nudibranch site yesterday, and found this little beauty, *Hoplodoris nodulosa* – Bruce.



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nudibranchs

Chromodoris loringi (Angas, 1864)

A small species (>25 mm) Angas first named *Goniodoris loringi* from Sydney in during his studies in 1864.

The mantle is bluish pink with a few scattered red spots. Just in from the mantle edge and posterior to the rhinophores runs a series of orange-yellow markings. A series of small red spots dot the all around the mantle edge.

The rhinophore stalk is lightly tinged with bluish pink and the club is yellow. The lamellae are cream and edged in golden yellow.

Up to eight simple gills form a circle around the anus and when fully extended lie nearly horizontal in a star shaped pattern.

Chromodoris loringi, *Hyselodoris bennetti* and *Chromodoris woodwardi* bare a resemblance to each other.

See Bill Rudman's site for more information
<http://www.ausmus.gov.au/seaslugs/>



Fig. 1 © Wayne Ellis 1986-2000

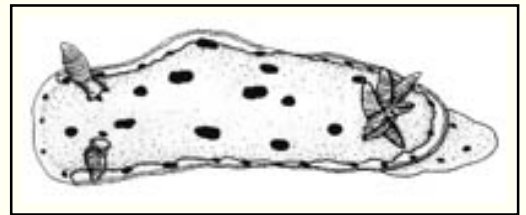


Fig. 2 After Rudman, 1983



Fig. 3 ©Wayne Ellis



Fig. 4 After Rudman 1983

Chromodoris thompsoni Rudman, 1983

A small (>25mm) species found on the NSW coast of eastern Australia and named in honour of Dr. T. E. Until Dr. Rudman described this species in 1983 it had been mistaken for *Chromodoris loringi* (Thompson, 1972).

The base colour of the mantle is usually pale pink with a bluish tinge and the viscera shows through as dark brown and cream. The dorsum is covered in milky bluish purple patches as well as red spots which are usually on a blue patch. The edge of the mantle is translucent with an inner creamy band.

The foot and sides of the body have red spots and blue patches on the short foot.

The rhinophores and gills are translucent cream with the edges of the lamellae cream also.

See Bill Rudman's site for more information
<http://www.ausmus.gov.au/seaslugs/>

References:

Rudman. W. B. 1983. *The Chromodorididae (Opisthobranchia: Mollusca) of the Indo-Pacific: Chromodoris splendida, C. aspera and Hypselodoris placida colour groups.* *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* Vol. 78. No. 2, pp. 105-173 June 1983.

Rudman. W. B. pers comm.

Rudman. W. B. 2000 <http://www.austmus.gov.au/seaslugs/>

Mediterranean

miquel pontes

nudibranchs

Hypselodoris villafranca
(Risso, 1818)

Hypselodoris villafranca is a dorid nudibranch first described by Risso in 1818. It is one of the most attractive opisthobranch molluscs in the Mediterranean Sea with its delicate shapes and bright coloured body. It was formerly known as *Glossodoris gracilis*, *Hypselodoris gracilis* or *Chromodoris villafranca*.

Among the main traits identifiable by a diver we point out the dark blue coloured body with a yellow band encircling the entire notal margin. There are other yellow bands that run longitudinally along the dorsum that can be discontinuous and often subdivide into smaller ones. There is also a light blue, iridescent, discontinuous line that runs parallel to the notum margin. This species presents colour variations depending on the zone and probably the age. The specimens that illustrate this article are all from the Costa Brava, in the North-East of Spain.

The *Hypselodoris villafranca* reaches a maximum size of 25 to 36 mm depending on the authors. Rhinophores show up to 20 small plates (*lamella*) that join in a zigzag white line visible in their back side. The 6-8 unipinnate branchial plumes are also blue and often show a white band on the outer side. These organs can be hidden in yellow ringed sheaths when the animal is disturbed. The foot is thinner than the notum and the back tip is clearly visible protruding behind it.

Vayssière wrote an excellent description for this species so we transcript it from the original work in French: "Couleur générale bleu indigo, offrant un aspect velouté, avec nombreuses lignes d'un jaune fauve ou jaune orangé, disposées longitudinalement et reliées entre elles par des lignes obliques et transversales plus fines. Une large liseré jaune-d'or borde la face dorsale du manteau, et est accompagné en dehors d'une bande bleu très pâle. (...) Rhinophores d'un bleu plus pâle, de même pour les feuillets branchiaux qui montrent une ligne jaune pâle sur l'arête des deux côtés."

This nudibranch is often found over calcareous algae from shallow water down to coralliferous areas around 40 meters deep, and feeds primarily on *Ircina*, *Spirastrella* or *Dysidea* sponges. Some authors qualify this species as uncommon while most others say it is frequent. It is distributed all along the Mediterranean and close Atlantic.

The reader may find more information in Erwin Köhler's excellent site about Mediterranean Nudibranchs: Medslugs (http://www.medslugs.de/E/Mediterranean/Hypselodoris_villafranca.htm)

This month Miquel Pontes was assisted by Josep M^a Dacosta in preparing this article and supplying the images.



Fig. 1 © 2000 Miquel Pontes



Fig.2 © 2000 Josep M^a Dacosta



Fig.3 © 2000 Josep M^a Dacosta



nomenclature

richard willan

Name Changes

Psst. Ever wanted to harass a shell collector? Don't use the line about raping and pillaging reefs. It's probably untrue – most shell collectors are ardent conservationists. Ask him or her why a spotted cowrie has the scientific name of *Cypraea tigris*. The answer is that there is no answer. In his wisdom, Carolus Linnaeus, the father of zoological taxonomy decided to use that name in 1758. And although other people were probably as mystified as to the reasons behind that name then as we are today, the fact is that name cannot be changed to reflect the fact that the cowrie shell is not striped like a tiger.

This stability of scientific names through time is the great strength of the "Linnean System" of scientific nomenclature.

However sometimes names do change and this inevitably causes confusion. I must repeat the point here that I have made before, that when a name change must occur, the scientist making it must act in the interests of long term stability. Any person can communicate with the staff of the International Commission to check that their intended actions will best serve the purpose of stability.

Name changes can come about through one of two ways; through taxonomic revisions or application of mandatory rules. This article and the next couple explain the reasons behind mandatory changes, that is the automatic correction of mistakes made by people creating new scientific names or using existing ones. The International Commission has laid down some rules governing these process that have served us well since the time of Linnaeus. From time to time one hears complaints that these rules are outdated and clumsy because they rely on some knowledge of Latin grammar, but nobody has ever come up with a better system.

In fact, the rules relating to the formation of scientific names and mandatory changes to "correct" names that are wrong are not difficult to learn at all. They are far more logical, more consistent, and have less technical jargon than your average computer program. If the average computer-literate person today can understand a phrases like "reboot the hard drive" and "non-GUI front end" they will have no trouble understanding the rules behind changes of scientific names.

As with the science of computing, scientific nomenclature is highly precise and this high degree of accuracy is where some people make mistakes. For example the difference of even a single letter indicates a different name. Some well-known examples are:

- The name *Berthellina* is a genus of side-gilled sea slugs whereas *Berthellinia* is a genus of sap-sucking sea slugs.

- The name *Pleurobranchaea* is a genus of side-gilled sea slugs, whereas *Pleurobrachaea* is a genus of sea gooseberries.

The clearest reasons for name changes are correcting mistakes originally made by others. If a person creating a new name makes a mistake in spelling another person's name, that mistake must automatically be corrected. Two examples relating to Australian molluscs are:

- The name for the chiton genus "*Fremblya*" had to be automatically corrected to *Frembleya* because it was named in honour of a Mr Frembley.

- The subspecific name for the baler "*Cymbiolacca complexa neilseni*" had to be automatically corrected to *nielsenii* because it was named in honour of Mr Tom Nielsen.



Similarly, if a person creates a genus name that, unbeknown to him or her at the time, had been created in Zoology previously (that is, it is technically a primary homonym), that name must be automatically corrected. A recent example is:

·The name *Dalhousia* created by Winston Ponder and co-authors in 1996 for a Australian freshwater snail was a primary homonym of *Dalhousia*, a genus of bristle worms named by McIntosh in 1885. So the snail had to be renamed (it was renamed *Caldicochlea* by Ponder in 1997).

More on mandatory corrections to specific names next time.

Reference

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature Fourth Edition*. Published by the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, xxix + 306 pp.

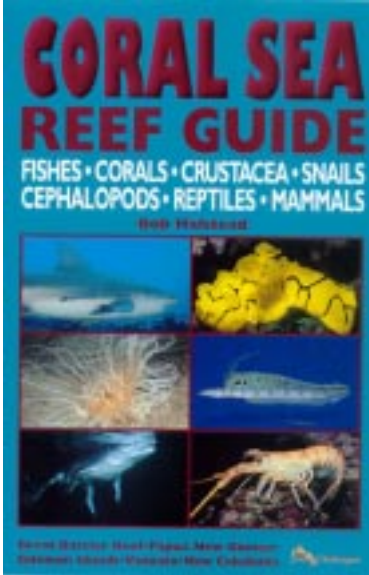


Fig.1 Cypraea tigris

Dave Behrens' Book Review

Coral Sea Reef Guide - Fishes, Coral, Crustacea, Snails, Cephalopods, Reptiles, Mammals. 2000 - Bob Halstead.

Coral Sea Reef Guide has been produced in the visually pleasing and user friendly format of our favorite Helmut Debelius guides. Hardcover, its 320 pages contain over 1000 of Bob Halstead's fantastic colour photos. Those of you who frequent the waters of the Great Barrier Reef or those of Papua New Guinea, certainly recognize the name Halstead, and the quality of photography that icon implies. A household word in the Indo-Pacific diving industry Bob has made more than 7000 in the Coral Sea to amass this collection of photos.



This full colour reef creature identification guide contains exquisite underwater photos of over 1000 marine species, from the Great Barrier Reef, Papua New Guinea, Solomon's, Vanuatu to New Caledonia. The books usefulness extends far outside this geographic area as species living within the Coral Sea occur throughout most of the Indo-pacific. Along with the descriptive information to identify each species, the book

includes interesting behavioural and habitat information. I particularly like the series of short, topical descriptions of ecological and behavioural subjects the book includes.

As the subtitle implies, the guide contains species descriptions of all the groups of reef life the diver or snorkeler will be interested in, not only complete coverage of the fish species, but of representatives of all the invertebrate phyla, sponges through tunicates. AND, just in case you want to identify some of the more obscure Coral Sea marine residents, he has included salt water crocs, sea snakes, manatees (dugong in Australia) and a couple whale species.

For you opisthobranch enthusiasts, the author has included several dozen species.

My first thought when I saw this book was - "What a terrific combination, the best photos in town, with accurate biology."

320 pages. Hardcover.
6x9 inches (15x23 cm)
2 pounds (0.8 kgms)

Available in the USA from:
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