

australasian nudibranch NEWS



No.3 November 1998



***Chromodoris kuiteri* Rudman, 1982**

This species is known from northern NSW, Queensland and Western Australia. It possibly extends into the tropical western Pacific. I have photos of it from the Great Barrier Reef. It is common on the Sunshine Coast's offshore reefs and is easy to spot with the black and yellow body and four usually unbroken narrow, blue longitudinal lines.

Maximum size appears to be 70mm with the average being 40-60mm. This species is predominately sub-tidal, rarely found intertidally. The average depth is 8-20m with 30m the deepest limit.

References

Willan and Coleman 1984. Nudibranchs of Australasia
Coleman 1989. Nudibranchs of the South Pacific

Photos ©Steve Grail 1998

See

<http://www.medslugs.de/wayne/chrkui1.htm>



Editorial

Thanks to Mike Miller and Bob Bolland who along with Steve Long included links from their sites to the newsletter and our website. Wes Thorsson of Hawaiian Shell News has also been spreading the word. The whole idea behind anNEWS is to share information about nudibranchs with a wide range of people.

Our website has just been upgraded to include some new images and the most current species list from the Sunshine Coast.

At present I can not suppress the mailing list each time I do the mail out. I'm looking into ways to overcome the problem, any suggestions would be appreciated.

This issue has an update of Helmet Debilius's "Nudibranchs and Sea Snails", Terry Gosliner's "Nudibranchs of Southern Africa", Wells and Bryce's "Sea Slugs of Western Australia" and Gosliner, Behrens and Williams, "Coral Reef Animal of the Indo-Pacific". The review this issue is the species *Phyllodesmium colemani* Rudman, 1991. Have you seen it elsewhere?

Please contact me if you require a copy of Neville Coleman's Nudibranchs of the South Pacific. Vol 1. The cost is \$15 (Australian) plus postage. If you have not already done so, add Dave Behrens, "Pacific Coast Nudibranchs" and Terry Gosliner's, "Nudibranchs of South Africa" to your bookshelf. Both books along with several others will be reviewed in upcoming issues. See page four for on-line booksellers.

Updates

Chromodoris hunteri described in issue two should read *C. hunterae*. Bill Rubman named it after Miss Judith Hunter of Sydney, Australia.

Richard Willan was kind enough to track down and send a copy Bergh's 1896 paper on *Myja longicornis* (see issue one). He also took the time to phone me and translate, from French the relevant information. Thanks Richard!

Permission has been sort from the Harbour Master for permission to dive in Mooloolaba harbour to assist Richard Willan in his research into possible introduced species that may become pests. Verbal permission has been given, we are now awaiting written confirmation.

The Malacological Society of Australasia's Mollusc Research Database is being updated. If you are involved with the database please forward your research details directly to me.

Ian Skipworth is now the editor of the newsletter of the Auckland branch of the Underwater Photographic Society of NZ and is looking for suitable articles. Ian can be contacted at ianskip@voyager.co.nz or visit his web site "[Skip's Underwater Image Gallery](http://www.voyager.co.nz/~ianskip/ss.htm)" <http://www.voyager.co.nz/~ianskip/ss.htm>

Wes Thorsson was kind enough to include my nudibranch article in the November issue of [Hawaiian Shell News](#).

Helmut Debilius stated in a recent email that the second edition of Nudibranchs and Sea Snails would be published in November.

Noodle-branks in California. Wendy Bailey from Gualala, California sent an email requesting information on nudibranchs for her 10 year old daughter's school project and this little gem. "As a three year old Elyse called the funny-looking sea slugs we find in nearby tide pools (northern CA. coast) "Noodle-branks" and the name has stuck".

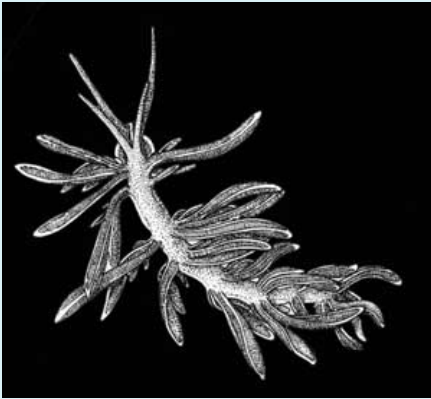


Fig. 1 *P. colemani*
after Rudman



Fig. 2 *P. colemani* in Lord Howe
Island Lagoon



Fig.3 Two *P. colemani* on their food
source



Fig.4 *P. colemani* on algae

See

<http://www.medslugs.de/wayne/physcol1.htm>
<http://www.medslugs.de/wayne/physcol2.htm>

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In Review

Phyllodesmium colemani Rudman, 1991.

Phyllodesmium sp: Coleman 1988: 14-15, 1989: 7, 54.

In October 1987 I attended the Lord Howe Island Marine Fauna Survey conducted by Neville Coleman. One afternoon I joined Neville snorkelling in the lagoon. This was the day he found what was later to be described as *Phyllodesmium colemani* Rudman 1991 feeding in one metre of water on the stoloniferan 'Organ Pipe Coral' *Tubipora musica*. Neville observed hidden between the grey/green polyps of the coral two little clumps of grey/green semi circles. To quote Neville "It seemed logical to me that a predator or commensal existed somewhere". Twenty years of searching had payed off.

Description

Phyllodesmium colemani is grey/green colour with cerata that resemble the polyps of *Tubipora musica* in colour and shape. The body is long and narrow with eight groups of cerata down each side of the body. Both, the rhinophores and oral tentacles are long and smooth. The foot is no wider than the body and broadens to form a semicircular leading edge with angular corners. The precardiac cerata are arranged in a single row each side of about ten cerata. The postcardiac cerata are in a series of up to ten vertical rows evenly spaced down the body. The number of cerata tends to reduce towards the posterior. The cerata are easily detached, possible to distract prey so the animal can escape. *Zooxanthellae*, microscopic algae is found concentrated in the ceratal surface and also in the musculature of the body wall. Like corals some nudibranchs have a symbiotic relationship with the algae. The nudibranch provides a safe home and the algae provides food.

The whitish edges on each ceras resemble the white edges on the axis of the corals polyps. This with the animals body colour create an effective camouflage.

This species differs from other *Phyllodesmium* species in the structure of it's radula, colour and food preference.

The animal ranges from 12-18mm in length.

Behaviour

At rest the cerata appear to coil. The animals use mimicry to protect themselves and probably spend their lives living on or in the coral formation. They possibly are only found in the open if moving to another food source. Little seems to be known about the eggs of this species.

Distribution

With the records I have available it appears to only be recorded at Lord Howe Island at present. Have you seen this species elsewhere?

Lord Howe Island (Latitude 31° 33'S, Longitude 159° 05'E) is 700kms north-east of Sydney (NSW Australia). The island is 11km long and 2.8km wide.

Remarks

Dr Bill Rudman of the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia named the species after Neville in 1991 in recognition of his contributions to the collections of the Australian Museum.

References

Coleman. N. UNDERWATER magazine #23 1988 14-15

Coleman. N. Nudibranchs of the South Pacific 1989 7 54 (bottom)

Rudman. W.B. FURTHER STUDIES ON THE TAXONOMY AND BIOLOGY OF THE OCTOCORAL-FEEDING GENUS *PHYLLODESMIUM* EHRENBERG, 1831 (Nudibranchia: Aeolidea) J.Moll.Stud. (1991), **57**, 167-203

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Neville Coleman for arranging the survey and to the participants; David Atkinson, Bruce Cox, Alan Williamson, Merv Archos, Michelle Clapin, Susan Simaitis and L. Welch. Our divemaster, Jeff Deacon, wife Carol and family always make a trip to Lord Howe Island a pleasure.

Name Changes

This is latest update for several of the current books containing nudibranchs.

Helmut DeBilius's "Nudibranchs and Sea Snails - Indo-Pacific Field Guide". Helmut mentioned he is publishing an updated edition in November.

For those of us with the first edition this list may be of benefit. All the Opisthobranchs covered in the book are updated. The list is compiled by page number and position; a (top of page), b (middle) or c (bottom). In some cases two different species appear under the same name. *** Species described since the publication of the book.

Opisthobranchs

p133a-left *Chelidonura amoena* (see p132b)
p139a *Philinopsis cyanea* (see p137a)
p140a *Philinopsis pilsbryi* (see p138a)
p140b *Philinopsis* sp.
p140c *Philinopsis* sp.
p146a *Aplysia parvula* (see p146b)
p146c *Stylocheilus citrina*
p152c *Pleurobranchus forskalii*
p154b *Pleurobranchus grandis* (see p150)
p 161c-left *Cyerece* sp.
p162a *Ascobulla fischeri*
p165b-right *Elysia* sp.
p168b *Elysia* sp.
p176c *Roboastra rubropapillosa*
p178c *Nembrotha* sp.
p179a *N.* sp.
p180b *Tambja limaciformis*
p183 *Tambja olivaria* = *Tambja* sp.
p184c *Roboastra gracilis*
p192c *A. villosa*
p193c *Nembrotha livingstonei*
p196a *Okenia* sp.
p200a *Chromodoris elisabethina*
p210a *Chromodoris rufomaculata*
p203a *Chromodoris boucheti*
p206c-right *Chromodoris preciosa*
p210c *Chromodoris hintuanensis* ***
p213a *Chromodoris joshi* ***
p214a *Hypselodoris* sp.
p214b *Hypselodoris kanamep* p214c *Hypselodoris* sp.
p215b *Mexichromis macropus* or *M. mariei*
p215c *Hypselodoris* sp.
p217c *Taringa halgerda* ***
p218b *Hypselodoris* sp.
p218c-right *Noumea* sp.
p222c *Ceratosoma trilobatum*
p223a-right *Ceratosoma trilobatum* (see p223a)
p234c *Hypselodoris carnea* (see p235a)
p239b *Hypselodoris infucata* (see p236a)
p239c *Chromodoris roboi* ***
p244a *Orodoris miamirina*
p244c *Miamira sinuata* (see p242)
p246c *Platydorid formosa* (see p253)
p248c is not a *Sebadoris*
p253c *Hoplodoris* sp.

p259c *Aldisa* sp.
p274 *Doriopsis* sp. placed in wrong family
p268c *Phyllidiopsis kempfi*
p280c *Marionia* sp.
p282b *Marionia viridescens*
p284a *Marionia viridescens*
p285b *Scyllaea pelagica*
p286a *Melibe fimbriata* (see p288a)
p288c *Melibe fimbriata* (see p288a)
p290c *Armina* sp.
p302c *Pteraeolida ianthina*
p303c *Moridilla brockii* (see p309b)
p304a-right *Pteraeolida ianthina* (see p302c)
p304b-right is not a *Eubrancheus*
p305c *Facelinella semidecora*
p306a *Cuthona* sp.
p308c *Godiva* sp.
p309b *Moridilla* sp.
p312a *Phyllodesmium* sp.

Fred E. Wells and Clayton W. Bryce's Sea Slugs of Western Australia

Page 8 (top) *Hypselodoris* sp.

Specimen Number

50	<i>Umbraculum umbraculum</i>
53	<i>Pleurobranchus</i> cf. <i>xhosa</i>
66	<i>Thuridilla bayeri</i> NB: <i>Thuridilla</i> is spelt wrong in book
70	<i>Elysia brycei</i>
71	<i>Thuridilla carlsoni</i>
73	<i>T. indopacifica</i>
94	<i>Nembrotha kubaryana</i>
95	<i>Tambja limaciformis</i>
98	cf. <i>Nembrotha livingstonei</i> .
141	<i>Hypselodoris mouaci</i>
160	<i>Hypselodoris bullocki</i>
182	<i>Dendrodoris fumata</i>
183	<i>D. nigra</i>
203	<i>Phidiana</i> sp.

Updated by Clayton Bryce Feb: 1998

Gosliner, Behrens and Williams, Coral Reef Animal of the Indo-Pacific.

558. *Discodoris* sp. Is now *Hoplodoris estreyado* Gosliner & Behrens 1998
602. *Nembrotha* sp. Is now *Nembrotha chamberlaini* Gosliner & Behrens 1997
607. *Gymnodoris* sp. Has been identified as *Gymnodoris aurita* (Gould, 1852) in Gosliner & Behrens 1997
610. *Notodoris* sp. Is now *Notodoris serena* Gosliner & Behrens 1998.

Update supplied by Dave Behrens, Oct 1998

Gosliner, 1987: Nudibranchs of Southern Africa

Old name

Elysia viridis
Elysia halimeda
Elysia virgata
Elysia moebii
Elysia vatae
Elysia livida
Elysia sp. 1
Elysia sp. 2
Elysia sp. 3
Pleurobranchus nigropunctata
Berthella tupala
Berthellina citrina
Sclerodoris sp.
Halgerda formosa
Halgerda punctata
Hallaxa sp.
Rostanga muscula
Chromodoris vicina
Chromodoris marginata
Chromodoris geometrica
Chromodoris sp. 1
Chromodoris sp. 2
Chromodoris sp. 3
Chromodoris sp. 4
Chromodoris sp. 5
Chromodoris sp. 7
Chromodoris sp. 8
Noumea varians
Noumea sp.
Glossodoris sp. 1
Glossodoris sp. 3
Ceratosoma sp.
Doriopsilla sp. 2
Phyllidia varicosa
Phyllidia sp. 1
Diaphorodoris sp.
Melibe sp.
Flabellina sp. 3

Coryphellina sp.
Cuthona sp. 3
Facelina sp.
Phyllodesmium serratum

New name

Elysia sp.
Elysia pusilla (Bergh, 1905)
Thuridilla virgata (Bergh, 1888)
Thuridilla moebii (Bergh, 1888)
Thuridilla vatae (Risbec, 1928)
Thuridilla livida (Baba, 1955)
Thuridilla indopacifica Gosliner 1995
Thuridilla albopustulosa Gosliner, 1995
Thuridilla multimarginata Gosliner, 1995
Pleurobranchus albiguttatus (Bergh, 1905)
Berthella stellata (Risso, 1828)
Berthellina granulata (Krauss, 1848)
Halgerda sp.
Halgerda sp.
Halgerda formosa Bergh, 1880
Hallaxa albopunctata Gosliner & Johnson, 1994
Rostanga bifurcata Rudman & Avern, 1989
Chromodoris tennentana (Kelaart, 1859)
Chromodoris verrieri (Crosse, 1875)
Chromodoris conchylia Yonow, 1984
Chromodoris heatherae Gosliner, 1994
Noumea protea Gosliner, 1994
Chromodoris geminus Rudman, 1987
Chromodoris lekker Gosliner, 1994
Glossodoris sp.
Chromodoris alius Rudman, 1987
Chromodoris pruna Gosliner, 1994
Durvilledoris pusilla (Bergh, 1874)
Noumea simplex (Pease, 1871)
Glossodoris undarum Rudman, 1985
Glossodoris hikuerensis (Pruvot-Fol, 1954)
Ceratosoma ingozi Gosliner, 1996
Doriopsilla capensis (Bergh, 1907)
Phyllidia coelestis Bergh, 1905
Phyllidiella zeylanica (Kelaart, 1859)
Diaphorodoris mitsuui (Baba, 1938)
Melibe liltvedii Gosliner, 1987
Flabellina rubropurpurata Gosliner & Willan, 1991
Flabellina delicata Gosliner & Willan, 1991
Cuthona sibogae (Bergh, 1905)
Facelina bouralli (Risbec, 1928)
Phyllodesmium horridus (Macnae, 1954)

Update supplied by Terry Gosliner Oct 1998

Dr Irina Roginskaya's article Why spirals? which was to appear in this issue has been held over due to technical difficulties.

The Queensland Museum has released a new book, "Wild Guide to Moreton Bay" covering the diversity to be found in this wonderful waterway. A review will appear next issue.

Contacts

Web Sites

[Mike Miller's Slug Site](#)

a great reference site. A must see

[Australian Museum's Sea Slug Forum](#)

Bill Rudman's site

[The Okinawa Slug Site](#)

Another site to visit regularly

[Sherif's Malaysian Slug Site](#)

A site for Malaysian nudibranchs

[New Zealand Nudibranch Site](#)

Ian Skipworth's site

[Steve Long's Opisthobranch Site](#)

Don't miss this page, great links.

[Photos by Wayne Ellis](#)

Erwin Kohler provides space for my photos

[Bernard Picton's Home Page](#)

Great nudibranch information section

[Mediterranean Slug Site](#)

Erwin Kohler's Site

[German Slug Site](#)

Wolfgang Seifarth site

[Bibliographia Nudibranchia](#)

Gary McDonalds nudibranch database site

Books on the Web

[Capricornica Publication](#)

Patty Jansen's natural history book site

[Sea Challengers](#)

Dave & Diana Behren's marine books site

[Mountain, Oceans & Travel Publications](#)

Barry Andrewartha & Belinda Barne's Sport

Diving magazine site

[Oceans Enterprises](#)

Peter Stone's diving related book site

My own web site is now up and running.

Visit to learn about Kinesiology,
Robyn's new book, "Word Power",
Nudibranchs and more.

[Wayne & Robyn's homepage](#)

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~glaskin>

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