

# australasian nudibranch NEWS



No.9 May 1999

## *Chromodoris thompsoni* Rudman, 1983



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A small Australian chromodorid with an ovate body and a fairly broad mantle overlap. The mantle is pale pink with a bluish tinged background.

The rhinophores are a translucent straw colour with cream dashes along the edges of the lamellae. The gills are coloured similarly.

This species was described by Dr Bill Rudman in 1977 and named it in honour of Dr T.E. Thompson.

Dr Richard Willan in a recent correspondence commented "The picture in Coleman (1989: 34) is *Chromodoris thompsoni* and is the only one of the *C. splendida* species complex to have blue patches on its mantle and the marginal band is continuous anteriorly and creamish white, not orange or yellow (yellow in *C. loringi* with red spots, and not extending all round the front). *C. thompsoni* seems very narrowly restricted to central NSW - I never found it in northern NSW or southern Queensland".

### References

- Rudman, W.B., 1983 *The Chromodorididae (Opisthobranchia: Mollusca) of the Indo-West Pacific: Chromodoris splendida, C.aspera and Hyselodoris placida colour groups.* ZJLS Vol 78,2 pp 105-173
- Thompson, T.E., 1976. *Nudibranchs*, pp 32.
- Willan, R.C., 1999. *pers comm.*

## Editors Notes

Indications are readership is increasing. To understand how much I'm asking readers to send me an [email](#). Your participation, comments and feedback is appreciated. The information will assist in making decisions about distribution and content.

The "Nudibranch of the Month" featured on our website this month is [Hexabranchnus sanguineus](#). The whole nudibranch section will be updated by the end of the month.

To assist anNEWS to provide up to date information would authors include me on their reprint mailing list or send details of the papers.

## Name Changes and Updates

This column is to help keep up to date with mis-identifications or name changes.

An updated (12th May 1999) errata for Neville Coleman's 1989 *Nudibranchs of the South Pacific* is [available upon request](#) from the anNEWS editor.

*Hyselodoris nigrostriata* (Eliot, 1904) is *Hyselodoris zephyra* Gosliner & R. Johnson, 1999.

Page 33C **Nudibranchs of the South Pacific, Neville Coleman 1989**  
Page 238C **Nudibranchs and Sea Snails Indo Pacific Field Guide. Helmut Debilius Edition's One (1996) and Edition Two (1998).**

*Chromodoris loringi* is *Chromodoris thompsoni*.

Page 34C **Nudibranchs of the South Pacific. N. Coleman 1989.**  
Page 32 **Nudibranchs. Dr T.E. Thompson 1976**

In a recent paper in the *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, Valdes & Gosliner have synonymised *Miamira* and *Orodoris* with *Ceratosoma*.

**Nudibranchs of the South Pacific. Neville Coleman 1989**

Page 26C *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

Page 27A *Ceratosoma magnifica* (Eliot, 1910)

**Nudibranchs of the Australasia. Willan and Coleman 1984.**

# 85 *Ceratosoma magnifica* (Eliot, 1910)

# 86 *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

**Nudibranchs and Sea Snails Indo Pacific Field Guide. Helmut Debilius Edition One (1996)**

Page 242 *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

Page 243 *Ceratosoma miamirana* (Bergh, 1875)

Page 244A *Ceratosoma miamirana* (Bergh, 1875)

Page 244B *Ceratosoma magnifica* (Eliot, 1910)

Page 244C *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

**Nudibranchs and Sea Snails Indo Pacific Field Guide. Helmut Debilius Edition Two (1998)**

Page 242 *Ceratosoma miamirana* (Bergh, 1875)

Page 243 *Ceratosoma miamirana* (Bergh, 1875)

Page 244A *Ceratosoma magnifica* (Eliot, 1910)

Page 244B *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

Page 244C *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

**Sea Slugs of Western Australia Wells and Bryce 1993**

#174 *Ceratosoma sinuata* (Hasselt, 1824)

#175 *Ceratosoma magnifica* (Eliot, 1910)

# Locations

## KwaZulu Natal South Africa – Dale Braum



Aliwal Shoal is a popular dive site 45 kms south of Durban. At present Dale Braum reports only *Chromodoris hamiltoni* from this reef.

Nestling amongst the sugarcane 45km south of Durban is the quiet town of Umkomaas. It is one of the most active diving locations on the South African coastline. The most popular site is Aliwal Shoal, located 5km offshore. It is on the inner edge of the Mozambique current and the nutrient rich waters support an amazing variety of reef life and although the Shoal has a limestone base, many tropical species can be found. The shoal runs roughly north to south and is approx 2km long and 500m wide. Its depth ranges from 3-5m in the pinicle area to 22-28m on either side. The currents usually run either N to S or S to N. The factory effluent pipe line lies to the North of the shoal approx 5km away. If we have a N to S current it brings in the effluent nicknamed "Purple Death". This reduces the visibility to less than a meter and covers the shoal in particles thus suffocating a lot of the marine life. It also effects the temperatuer of the water causing a drop of a couple degrees. This entire process can happen in a couple of hours. If the current runs the other way this normally brings in clean and warmer water. (See <http://www.dive-sa.co.za/second/aliwal.htm>).

At the moment the only Nudibranch we are able to find is *Chromodoris hamiltoni*. I have also noticed that the patterns on the dorsum of this nudi vary slightly from that recorded in Terry Gosliner's book "*Nudibranchs of Southern Africa*".

Further south off Park Rynie are a few smaller reefs. These normally have a larger population of nudis and corals, as they are not that effected by the factory effluents. We have seen the following nudibranchs on Landers Deep, a small reef 30-35m deep and approx. 5 km off Park Rynie: *Halgerda formosa*, *Nembrotha purpleolineata*, *Glossodoris sp.4* (page 85 *Nudibranchs of Southern Africa* by Terrence Gosliner), *Phyllida varicosa* and *Chromodoris hamiltoni*.

### References:

Dale Braum

<http://www.dive-sa.co.za/second/aliwal.htm>.

Aliwal Shoal map coutesy of Joz (<http://www.dive-sa.co.za/atlanta>)



**Richard Willan** looked up the meaning of these words in Brown "Composition of Scientific Words" and they are as follows:  
*Hypselos* = is a Greek noun meaning high.  
*obscura* = is a Latin adjective meaning dark or indistinct.  
*infucata* = is a Latin adjective meaning painted.

Further information on Southern African dive sites and nudibranchs will be included in upcoming issues.

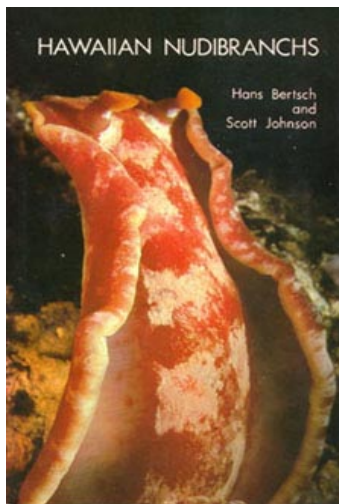
## Book Review:

### Hawaiian Nudibranchs

A Guide to Hawaii's colorful Mollusks  
Nudibranchs and their Allies

Hans Bertsch and Scott Johnson – 1981

Publisher: Oriental Publishing Company Hawaii  
140 x 215mm (5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch) Paperback  
RRP: \$15.95 (US)



Authors, Hans Bertsch and Scott Johnson.

This is an excellent field guide to the common opisthobranch species of the Hawaiian archipelago and includes 127 color photos of 80 species. In one sense, this is a specialized book – but its emphasis and intent allow it to be used by marine enthusiasts almost anywhere.

Chapters on Classification, an Introduction, Island Biogeography, Taxonomy, Opisthobranch Reproduction and Development, Feeding, Cephalaspidea, Saccoglossa, Anaspidea, Notospidea, Nudibranchia, Additional Reading, Camera Techniques and Conservation Ethic are included.

The field guide is easy to read and with good quality colour photographs is useful for identifying local Hawaiian opisthobranchs. Many of the genus and species names have changed. A current errata has been compiled to update these name changes.

Available form:

Dave and Diana Behrens  
[Sea Challengers](#) (USA)

## Profiles:

### Scott Johnson

Scott spent a lot of his growing up years in the Marshall Islands, snorkeling and diving at Kwajalein. With his interest in the water, Scott attended the University of Hawaii.

In grad school in the mid-70s he "discovered" nudibranchs after purchasing a 1:1 extension tube set for his old Nikonos. Suddenly there were these colourful slugs all over the place! Scott found it nearly impossible to identify many of the species he was capturing on film. This piqued his interest.

Hans Bertsch, who at the time was teaching at a Honolulu college furthered Scott's interest with his knowledge and infectious enthusiasm. They worked on several projects together, including the Hawaiian Nudibranchs book. Scott's masters research involved subtidal nudibranch ecology.

After graduating, he spent nearly 3 years chasing nudis at the Mid-Pacific Research Lab on Enewetak Atoll before it was shut down in 1983 from lack of funding. A few more years in Hawaii and then California convinced him that if he was going to be able to afford to feed his addiction to nitrogen under pressure at temperatures exceeding 28°C, he would have to change jobs.

Nowadays he works as a computer/network administrator for a high tech US company involved in radar testing on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, and spends all his "free" time feeding his nitrogen addiction, mostly shooting underwater video.

The last words are left to Scott – *"I'm still fascinated by the slugs, although they're not as easy to hunt for and find while I'm pushing around a video camera housing. And since it's more fun to spend my time in observation rather than documentation, I tend to send off what animals I do find for the real pros to work on these days"*.

**"OPISTHOBRANCHS of KERAMA ISLANDS"** by Mr. Atsushi Ono containing 300 species is to be published in mid-June by TBS-BRITANNICA Co.,Ltd.

Kerama Islands is near Okinawa.



A much younger [Scott Johnson](#)



# Feedback

In your editor's notes in anNEWS No. 7 (March) you mentioned that *Hypselodoris bennetti* is a direct developer, endemic to the NSW coast. I know that you were directly quoting Terry Gosliner's 1999 paper, but I can tell you that it is fairly common in some eastern areas in Victoria, particularly Wilson's Promontory.

Ed. *H. bennetti* is also found in Southern Queensland

... I also have a species list you may want to add to your site for Victoria, or particularly in and around Port Phillip Bay:

*Ceratosoma amoena* (outside the heads)  
*Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*  
*Chromodoris epicuria*  
*Chromodoris tasmaniensis*  
*Chromodoris tinctoria*  
*Chromodoris sp.* (Marine Inverts. of SA Plate 49.6, lower right)  
*Digidentis perplexa*  
*Doriopsilla carneola*  
*Neodoris chrysoderma*  
*Noumea haliclona*  
*Noumea sulphurea*  
*Tambja verconis*

**Nerida Wilson** Australia [nwilson@zoology.uq.edu.au](mailto:nwilson@zoology.uq.edu.au)

... nifty little Doto sp. along with the eggs. I find a few here now that I'm looking closer at some of my deep water hydroids.

**Robert F. Bolland** Okinawa [bolland@imicom.or.jp](mailto:bolland@imicom.or.jp)  
URL: <http://rfbolland.com/okislugs>

I am working for a wildlife television company where we have just finished a highly acclaimed series called SuperNatural (which will air on Discovery Channel later in the year). It explores the sensory and physical powers of animals and is a follow-up to the series "Supersense" made ten years ago.

We are working on a follow-up series entitled "Weird Nature" and I am currently researching unusual stories about defence mechanisms. I would like to look into the possibility of filming a story around sea slugs recycling cnidarian nematocysts for use in their own defence. I'd like to know if you've worked with these animals in tanks at all, or can refer me to someone who has.

Are there any species that are good or bad to work with - ideally we would like a few of the most impressively coloured and shaped species, but are there any you would recommend we work with, or even recommend that we avoid? What are they like to work with in tanks? and are they easy to look after? I don't know yet if we intend to film them here in the UK or elsewhere, yet - maybe you can recommend some key places that keep species we might be able to work with...?

What sort of predators do they come up against in the wild? Would it be possible to set up a predation sequence in a tank? and is it really possible to see the nematocysts being fired?

If you are unable to help me with these queries, then could you refer me to someone who can? Do you know of anyone in the UK who works on these beautiful creatures? I have a few diving contacts here but none that I know of working specifically on sea slugs.

I'd appreciate any advice or information you can provide.

**Miranda Krestovnikoff** UK [Miranda@jdp.co.uk](mailto:Miranda@jdp.co.uk)  
Researcher - John Downer Productions, UK

# 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 Nudibranch Site](#)

Great nudibranch information section

### [Mediterranean Slug Site](#)

Erwin Kohler's Site

### [German Slug Site](#)

Wolfgang Seifarth's site

### [Bibliographia Nudibranchia](#)

Gary McDonald's 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

### [Oceans Enterprises](#)

Peter Stone's diving related book site

### [Coral Sea Imagery](#)

Books, videos and CD,s relating to the marine environment in Townsville Qld Aust.

## anNEWS back issues

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

### [Mike Miller's Slug Site](#)

### [Steve Long's Opisthobranch Site](#)

### [M@re Nostrum](#)



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