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Sept 2000

nudibranchNEWS

Editorial

Welcome to Volume Three. For some time the amount of feedback and contributions has been very limited. This is making more difficult to keep the quality and quantity of information as high as I would like.

Book Review

This month we list the books we have reviewed in previous issues.

Volume One Reviews

- Wild Places of Moreton Bay – Qld Museum.
Vol.1-4. Dec 1998
- Nudibranchs of the South Pacific – Neville Coleman.
Vol.1-5. Jan 1999
- Sea Slugs of Western Australia – Wells & Bryce.
Vol.1-5. Jan 1999
- Nudibranchs and Sea Snails. Indo-Pacific Field Guide. Debilius.
Vol.1-6. Feb 1999
- Pacific Coast Nudibranchs. Behrens
Vol.1-7. March 1999
- Nudibranchs of Southern Africa. Gosliner.
Vol.1-8. April 1999
- Hawaiian Nudibranchs. Bertsch & Johnson.
Vol.1-9. May 1999
- Hawaii's Sea Creatures, A Guide to Hawaii's Marine Invertebrates.
Vol.1-10. June 1999
- Opisthobranchs of Kerama Islands – Ono.
Vol.1-11. July 1999
- Guide Book to Marine Life – Majime Masuda.
Vol.1-12 August 1999

Volume Two Reviews.

- A field Guide to Nudibranchs of the British Isles - Picton & Morrow. Vol.2-4. Dec 1999
- Tropical Pacific Invertebrates – Colin & Ameson.
Vol.2-5. Jan 2000
- Nudibranchs of Heron Island – Marshall and Willan.
Vol.2.6. Feb 2000
- Opisthobranchs Mollusks of the Pacific Coast of North America – McFarland.
Vol.2-7. March 2000
- Sea Slugs of Atlantic Canada and the Gulf of Maine – Bleakney.
Vol.2-8 April 2000
- Opisthobranchs of Izu Peninsula – Suzuki. Vol.2-9
May 2000
- Atlas of Mediterranean Nudibranchs – Cattanco-Vietti, Chemello & Gianuzzi-Savelli.
Vol.2-10. June 2000
- Coral Sea Reef Guide – Halstead.
Vol.2-1.1 July 2000
- An Underwater Guide to Indonesia – Anderson.
Vol.2-12. August 2000

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**wayne
ellis**

Chromodoris decora (Pease, 1860)

This beautiful little chromodorid was featured in the October 1998 newsletter (no.2). A common sight at Point Cartwright (S. E. Queensland) intertidally. On Monday, September, 11th we found a small (<5mm) chromodorid with vermillion spots patches of orange at the front and the rear of the mantle and straw coloured rhinophores (fig. 2). Not until we found another white specimen (<5mm) with touches of orange on the mantle margin no vermillion spots (fig. 3) did it become apparent we were probably observing the juveniles of *C. decora*. This second specimen was on the grey/black sponge on which adult *C. decora* appear to feed.

I suggest that the juveniles start out white, then the orange begins to form around the margin. Next comes the vermillion spots and eventually the mantle takes on a straw colour between the longitudinal white lines. The rhinophores seem to be straw coloured and not change.

References:

Rudman, 1986. *The Chromodorididae (Opisthobranchia:Mollusca) of the Indo-West Pacific: Noumea purpurea and Chromodoris decora colour groups.*

Any further information or validation of this observation would be appreciated.

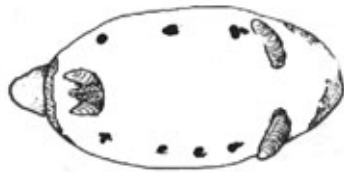


Fig. 2. Juvenile from Point Cartwright.

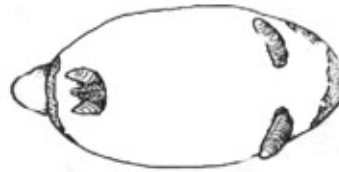


Fig. 2. Second juvenile from Point Cartwright without the spots



Fig. 1. C. decora photographed at Point Cartwright.

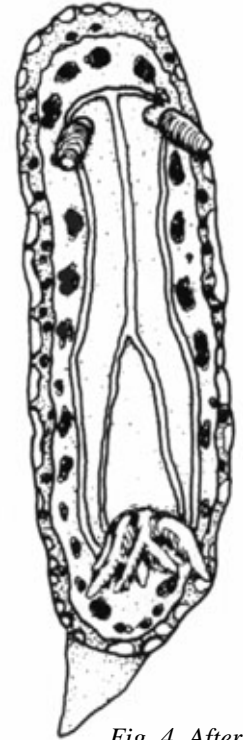


Fig. 4. After Rubman 1986

Flabellina babai

Commonly known as “white flabellina”, it was first described by Schmeckel in 1972. The scientific gender name “*Flabellina*” derives from the Latin word “*Flabellum*” which means “fan”, so this name describes a fan shaped nudibranch. *Babai* is dedicated to the memory of Kikutaro Baba, a Japanese opisthobranch investigator who worked on the subject since 1930 to 1990, according to Hans G. Hansson’s BEMON index.

Flabellina babai is coloured bluish white and can grow up to 50 mm. The long lamellated rhinophores and the cerata are also coloured white with the tips bright yellow. Cerata are arranged in 7 to 12 groups along the dorsum, and each group contains from 2 to 5 appendixes growing from a common peduncle. The white oral tentacles are very long compared to the rest of the body.

Flabellina babai lives on deeper rocky bottoms than the other members of the gender: it is generally found below 20 m and among the hydrozoans which it preys on. It is considered to be not frequent.

Readers can find more information at Erwin Köhler’s site for Mediterranean Nudibranchs: **Medslugs** (http://www.medslugs.de/E/Mediterranean/Flabellina_babai.htm)

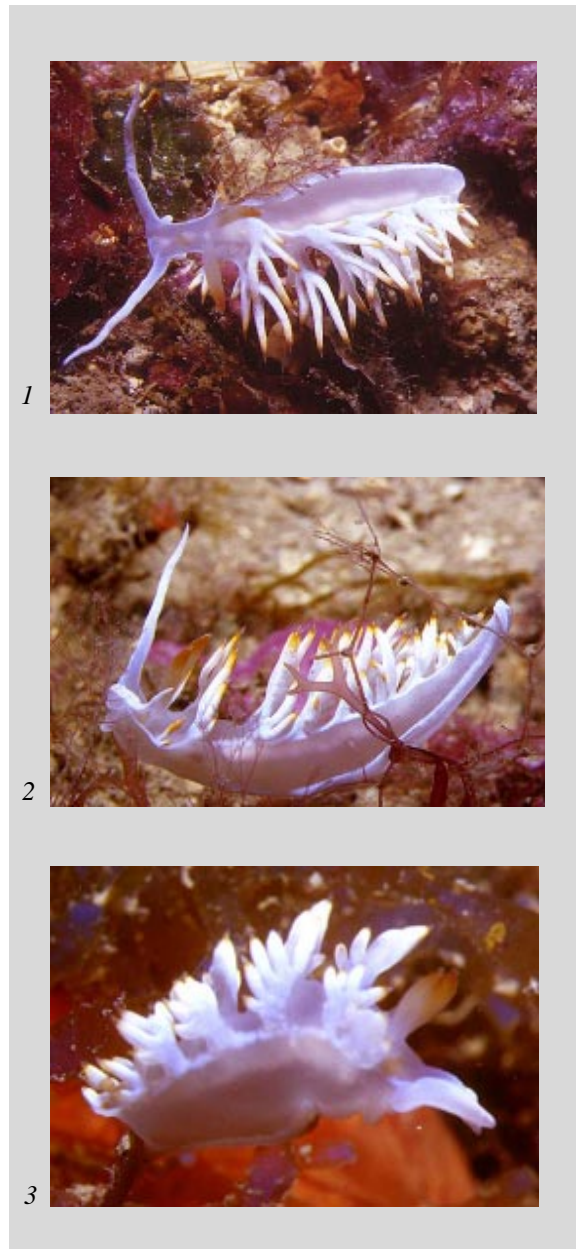
Photographs:

Fig. 1 & Fig. 2 Lluís Aguillar

Fig. 3 Albert Ollé



**miquel
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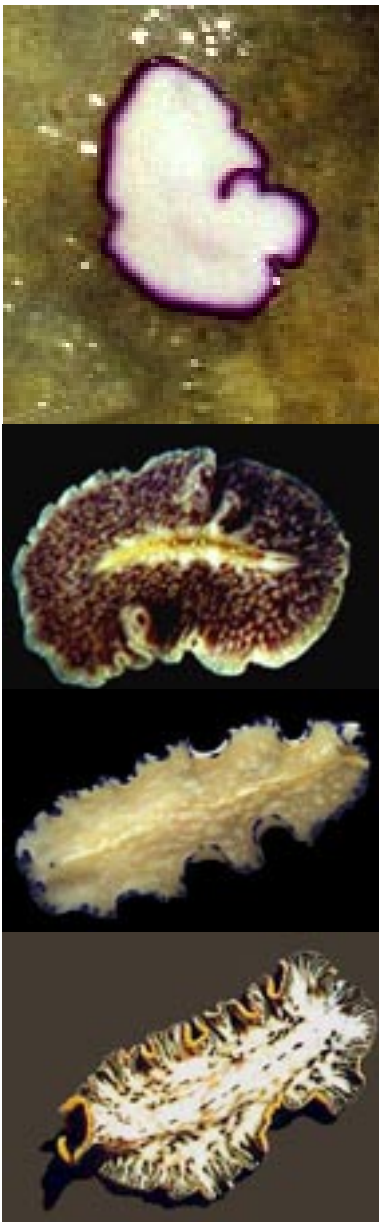


Fig. 2(Top), 3, 4, 5

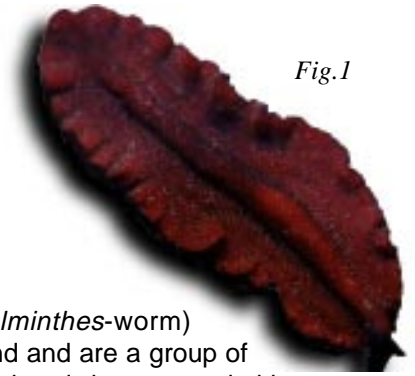


Fig.1

Flatworms

The Platyhelminthes (Greek: *platys*-flat, *helminthes*-worm) are unsegmented flat worms with a head and tail end and are a group of mainly marine free-living animals. They are considered the most primitive bilaterally symmetrical animals.

These animals are mistaken for nudibranchs primarily due to their bright colours (in the more extroverted members of the group). Like nudibranchs some species are brightly coloured, others more cryptic and camouflaged.

Some flatworms species may mimic toxic opisthobranch molluscs. It is unclear whether the worms represent really unpalatable (Müllerian mimicry) or edible species (Batesian mimicry). Examples include the flatworm *Pseudoceros imitatus* and the nudibranch *Phyllidiella putulosa*.

Flatworms are dorso-ventrally flattened, extremely delicate, no more an millimetres thick and have three fundamental cell layers (endoderm, mesoderm, ectoderm). They range in size from 1-30 millimetres. The mantle can be smooth or textured, brightly coloured or drab.

The front (anterior or cephalic) region sometimes has marginal tentacles. These can be ear-like appendages, folds in the margin or bosses (nuchal tentacles).

The eyes are distributed either in the anterior region or around the margin of the body. There are four types of eyes:

- 1: cerebral eyes in two clusters in the region of the cerebral organ
2. eyes in the nuchal marginal tentacles
3. frontal eyes distributed over the cephalic region
4. marginal eyes disposed along the margin of the body.

Flatworms use two forms of locomotion:

1: A crawling motion. Flatworms are normally observed crawling across the substrata.

2: A swimming motion using the undulation of the body margins.

Flatworms are hermaphrodites and engage in crude reciprocal mating. Hypodermic insemination is preformed. Recently, thanks to Leslie Newman I witnessed "penis fencing" between two flatworms. The animals come together and stab each other with their penises. Animals sustain physical damage, which heals within hrs. The eggs are laid in spirals or plate-like masses and adhere to the shells, rocks, algae, etc. on the substratum.

Being active carnivores flatworms feed on dead or mortally wounded animals. Some feed on sessile invertebrates, algae or benthic diatoms (Order: *Acoela*).

References

Newman. L *Pers comm* 1999-2000

Seifarth. W. 1999. *Marine Flatworms of the world*. <http://www.privat.schlud.de/w/wolfgang/>

Prudhoe. S. 1982 *Marine Invertebrates of Southern Australia Part 1*.

Photographs:

All images in this article were taken at Point Cartwright, S. E. Queensland by the author and can be viewed at <http://www.privat.schlud.de/w/wolfgang/>

Fig. 1 *Pseudobiceros apricus*

Fig. 2 *Pseudoceros* nov.sp (FW#11 Newman 2000)

Fig. 3 *Cycloporus* sp (FW#406 Newman 2000)

Fig. 4 *Pseudoceros* nov. sp (FW#56 Newman 2000)

Fig. 5 *Pseudoceros felis*