Southern California Association of
Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists

3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California 90731

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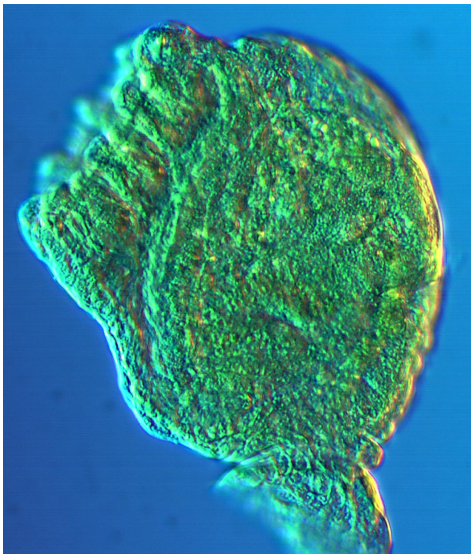
SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 20, No. 2

SUBJECT:	Taxonomic Database Discussion - Part I
GUEST SPEAKER:	Led by Ron Velarde and Rick Rowe (CSDMWWD)
DATE:	20 August 2001
TIME:	9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION:	SCCWRP 7171 Fenwick Lane, Westminster, CA



Whole mount of *Loxomespilon*? sp. removed from *Nephtys* sp SD2. Image by K. Barwick. (I15(1) 3 JAN 01 103ft.)

Next Meeting: Come prepared to discuss how you currently handle the maintenance of collection information, taxonomic changes within the existing database and collections base for your organization, and the pro's and con's of your current use. Think ahead as to what you might be interested in expanding into (i.e. if you currently do not track voucher specimens, how would you like to do so). Create a wish list of what you would love to be able to do if you could get it implemented. Think regionally; our databases are increasingly asked to serve the dual purposes of our own monitoring and of providing data in common formats to new databases designed to achieve regional monitoring goals. Larry Cooper of SCCWRP will be on hand for this discussion and can bring us up to date on the decisions implemented in the regional monitoring Information Management Plans. These discussions will be resumed as Part II at the December meeting, and will extend to the

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new area: what can I get off the shelf? We will examine a list of available software for collections, and taxonomic information management. A list of potential candidates for this later discussion will be distributed at the August meeting.
For additional information please see the flyer at the end of this Newsletter.

NEW LITERATURE

Most opisthobranchs are clearly either aeolids or dorids, with a smattering distributed among other groups of nudibranchs and some related groups. Valdés & Camacho-Garcia (2000) describe a new species from the tropical Eastern Pacific in the "related groups" category. This is a polybranchiid sacoglossan of genus *Cyerce*. There are no local representatives of the group, but excursions into warmer waters to the south of the Southern California Bight will yield several. The species described here has also been seen, by the editor, closer to our area in central West Mexico around Bahia Banderas. A nice summary of the group worldwide is provided by the authors.

Another "related group" animal is described by Cervera et al (2000), this is a notaspid sea slug of the genus *Berthella*, of which several occur in our area. The new one is from the Canary Islands so we are unlikely to be seeing it any time soon, but the authors re-examine the phylogenetic relationships in the group, and their analysis is applicable to our fauna.

Snails of the genus *Crepidula*, the slipper limpets, create problems for the taxonomist relying on gross shell characters by conforming closely to the contours of their substrate. The flat white species are especially troublesome, and it is this group which Collin (2000a) discusses. She focuses on Atlantic species, but her character discussions are informative with regard to California species and how to examine them.

She also investigated the reproduction and early development of *Nitidiscala tincta* in California, looking for evidence concerning the placement of the family Epitoniidae within the gastropods (Collin 2000b). Her examinations suggested that some features of the animal's development are similar to heterobranchs while others are more typical of caenogastropods. While she found adult morphology was that of caenogastropods, the position of the epitoniids within the gastropods remains equivocal. The author suggests further investigation along these lines with a broader species sampling.

Gerken et al (2000) clarified the position of *Brachydiastylis nimia*. They obtained collections with many males, a luxury not enjoyed by Hansen when he described the species based on females only. They found that the males uniformly had only a single pair of pleopods rather than the two pairs found in virtually all other diastylid genera. In consequence they created a new genus *Ektonodiastylis* to house *nimia*, and a newly described congener *E. robusta*. They provide a rediagnosis of the family to accommodate this new genus and *Atlantistylis*, which lacks pleopods in the male.

The tanaid genus *Collettea* was revised by Larsen (2000). The genus, typically found in deep water, is widely distributed. There are several species in the north Pacific, as well as others in the Mediterranean, Antarctic, north Atlantic, south Pacific and off Australia. Larsen provides a first key to the genus and discusses it's relationship within the family Anarthruridae where it apparently belongs. However, it does not fit into any of the available subfamilies. The genus is characterized, among other things, by very short biramous uropods covered by a plate-like pleotelsonic extension dorsally. It is found in older texts as *Strongylura*, a name which was preoccupied.

Genetic examination of populations has often proven that considerable diversity resides behind morphologically similar exteriors. Frequently such examinations have revealed cryptic taxa which differ in no easily observable way. Further examination will often reveal small details, previously considered insignificant, which will allow separation of the sibling species on morphological grounds. This may prove to be the case with a complex of corophioid amphipod species revealed by allozyme analysis in New Zealand (Schnabel et al 2000), but as yet they cannot be separated morphologically. The authors consider the possibilities of dispersal and isolation as influenced by the physiography of New Zealand, and the flow of currents along the coast. The limited dispersal abilities of brooding peracarids such as this, make them ideal candidates for speciation and local endemism.

KOMMENSAL KAMPTOZOANS

A Preliminary Review of the Solitary Kamptozoans Described from the North Eastern Pacific
by Kelvin Barwick (CSDMWWD)

Recently I found a strange organism attached to the parapods of a *Nephtys* sp SD2 (Figure 1). Upon closer examination and consultation with my colleagues, it was determined to be a Kamptozoan (entoproct). I sent digital images to Dr. Kerstin Wasson (1997) who has written a monograph on the Pacific coast colonial forms of Kamptozoans. She was able to confirm the identification. My curiosity piqued, I decided to further research the group. Below is a synthesis of the information that I was able to glean from the literature.

There are two orders of Kamptozoans Cori, 1929: the colonial forms, which are mostly free living (Order Coloniales), and the solitary forms (Order Solitaria, Family Loxosomatidae). As mentioned earlier, the colonial fauna of the Pacific coast has been

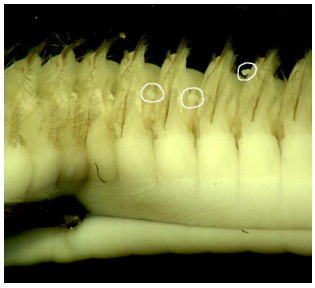

Figure 1 — Ventro-lateral view of *Nephtys* sp SD2 with *Loxomespilon*? sp. in situ (circled). (I15(1) 3 JAN 01 103ft

reviewed by Wasson (1997), therefore, I will limit my discussion to the Order Solitaria and its single family Loxosomatidae. The family is described as solitary, without a star cell complex between the transition of the stalk and the body (calyx). When sexual reproduction occurs the female broods eggs and releases either a benthonic or planktonic larvae. Asexual reproduction is by budding from the calyx. Loxosomatidae are usually epizoic on a host organism. Hosts include polychaetes (with attachment either on the inside of the host tube or on the host itself), sipunculans, bryzoans, sponges, and ophiuroids. Their epizoic lifestyle allows them to take advantage of the current created by their host. Worldwide there are three known genera: *Loxosoma* Keferstein, 1862, *Loxosomella* Mortenesen, 1911, and *Loxomespilon* Bobin & Prenant, 1953 (Nielson, 1989).

The genus *Loxosoma* has 25 described species (Nielsen, 1996). This genus lacks a foot even on the buds (asexual juveniles). The stalk is attached to the substrate by a round sucking disk which the animal is able to detach, move and reattach to the substratum. One species is interstitial, the remaining species are associated with the polychaete families Capitellidae, Scalibregmatidae, Maldanidae, Terebellidae, and Pectinariidae (Nielsen, 1989, Soule and Soule, 1965). A species reported from the eastern Pacific is *Loxosoma davenporti* Nikerson, 1898 at Hammond Bay Lagoon, British Columbia (Osburn, 1953) attached to the inside of the tubes of *Clymenella zonalis*

(Maldanidae: Polychaeta) (Nielsen, 1996). Curiously the type locality for *L. davenporti* is New England. Osburn (1953) mentions a second undescribed species of *Loxosoma* (as ?*Loxosoma* sp.) found "epizoic on an annelid worm" at Point Barrow, Alaska.

Loxosomella produces buds (asexual juveniles) which have a separate foot gland and a foot groove lined with accessory glands. After detachment from the parent, the foot may or may not be retained in adults. Individuals that retain the foot gland are able to move around on the host. Other species who lose their foot gland as adults remain permanently attached to the host (Nielsen, 1989, Soule and Soule, 1965). In this genus there are approximately 75 described species (Nielsen, 1989) which have been reported from a wide variety of hosts including the polychaete families: Aphroditidae, Polynoidae, Nephtyidae, and Eunicidae; and on sponges, sipunculans, ectoprocts, and echinoderms (Nielson, 1996). In addition, Soule and Soule (1965) reported them as occurring on corals, mollusks, algae and rocks. There are three species described from the eastern Pacific. Two species, *L. macginitieorum* Soule and Soule, 1965 and *L. prenanti* Soule and Soule, 1965 were both found attached to the gills of the stomatopod *Hemisquilla ensigeria californenisis* (as *Pseudosquilla bigelowi* in Soule and Soule, 1965) from Pt. Hueneme and Ventura, California. The third species , *L. nordgaardi* Ryland, 1964, is found to occur on ectoprocts, e.g., *Tegella* sp. (Kozoloff, 1996). Osburn (1953) mentions an undescribed species of *Loxosomella* (as *Loxocalyx* sp. now a junior synonym) attached to *Gattyna cirrosa* (Polynoidae: Polychaeta) from Puget Sound, Washington. *G. cirrosa* is itself a commensal of the *Amphitrite* sp. (Terebellidae: Polychaeta) (Nielsen, 1989 and Hutchings, 2000). Dr. Wasson reported a number of undescribed species from the California coast (personal communication May 4, 2001). Figures 2 and 3 show a *Loxosomella* sp. found attached to the ventral surface of an *Aphrodita armifera* (Aphroditidae: Polychaeta) collected offshore San Diego.

Figure 2 — Whole mount of *Loxosomella* sp. removed from ventral surface of *Aphrodita armifera*. Note attached bud. The calyx dimensions are 0.160 mm wide by 0.252 mm long. (I9(1) 2 JAN 01 93 ft)

Figure 3 — Whole mount of second specimen of *Loxosomella* sp. removed from ventral surface of *Aphrodita armifera*. The calyx dimensions are 0.156 mm wide by 0.222 mm long. (I9(1) 2 JAN 01 93 ft)

In the genus *Loxomespilon* the stalk is lacking. The animal is attached directly to substratum (Nielsen, 1989). There is only one described species, *Loxomespilon prezei* Bobin and Prenant, 1953, found on the branchiae and elytra of *Sthenelais boa* (Sigalionidae: Polychaeta) from Roscoff, France on the English Channel (Bobin & Prenant, 1953). Dr.

Wasson reports encountering *Loxomespilon* species on *Diopatra* sp. from Puget Sound. She further added that she has accounts from A. Kohn and E. Kolzoff of seeing something similar on *Nephtys* sp. (Nephytidae: Polychaeta), from San Juan Island, Washington (personal communication May 4, 2001). Figure 4 and the cover photo show a specimen of a possible *Loxomespilon* sp. (Wasson personal communication May 7, 2001) found on *Nephtys* sp SD2 collected in San Diego.

Thanks to Dr. Kerstin Wasson for promptly and cheerfully answering my many emails and Don Cadien for the use of his large library.

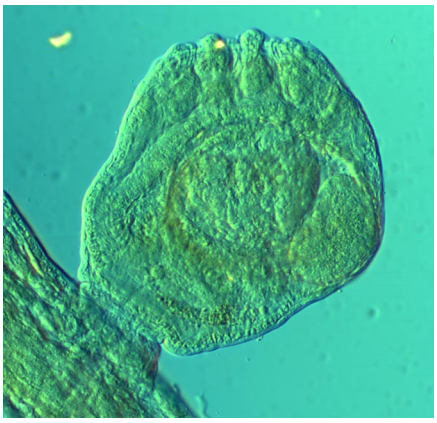

Figure 4 — Whole mount of *Loxomespilon*? sp. removed from *Nephtys* sp SD1 with host tissue attached. The calyx dimensions are 0.44 mm wide by 0.156 mm long. (I15(1) 3 JAN 01 103ft.)

ANOTHER CONTRIBUTION

Kelvin Barwick has also been busily working on his other favorite group, mollusks. In the taxonomic tools section of the SCAMIT website you will find a voucher sheet for his and Paul V. Scott's latest find, *Mysella* sp H.

MINUTES OF THE 11 JUNE MEETING

The meeting was held at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. President Ron Velarde opened the business portion of the meeting at 9:45a.m.

The first topic was upcoming SCAMIT meetings. There will be no SCAMIT meeting in July. In August a meeting to investigate taxonomic databases will be held at SCCWRP. Any member with interest or experience using descriptive database software is encouraged to attend this discussion. For the September meeting, Larry Lovell will give a presentation on the Euclymenid Maldanids from the Bight'98 project. Larry identified this taxa for all the stations. This meeting will be held at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In October the meeting topic will be Phoxocephalids, lead by Don Cadien and Dean Pasko.

Vice-President Leslie Harris put out a request for SCAMIT meeting topics. If anyone has a suggestion for a meeting topic and/or know someone who could be invited as a guest speaker, please let Leslie know.

Leslie introduced Phil Hoover who is new to the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and works in the Marine Biodiversity Sorting Center. His speciality is Amphilochid amphipods. We are looking forward to having Phil as a guest speaker at a SCAMIT meeting.

There are a few upcoming meetings of interest. The Western Society of Malacologists meeting is June 20-24 in San Diego. The International Polychaete Conference is July 1-7 in Iceland. The Western Society of Naturalists meeting is November 9-12 in Ventura.

Next, Ron passed around the SCAMIT treasurer's report for 2000-2001. The latest SCCWRP annual report (1999-2000) is out. You can contact SCCWRP (www.sccwrp.org) for a copy.

Rick Rowe passed around an announcement of a MMS environmental studies program involving the Gulf of Mexico. The title is "Deepwater Program: Assessment and Reduction of Taxonomic Error in Benthic Macrofauna Surveys: An Initial Program Focused on Shelf and Slope Polychaete

Worms". Their objective is to assess and reduce taxonomic error at the species level through use of computer aided identification, specifically DELTA (Descriptive Language for Taxonomic Analysis). More information on this study can be found at their website,

http://www.mms.gov/eppd/sciences/esp/profiles/gm/GM-92-42-68.htm

Tom Parker notified us about four polychaete papers that are included in the latest Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington issue (Vol. 114, No. 2). They are:

1) *Eulalia gemina* (Phyllodocidae: Polychaeta), a new species from Shirahama, Japan by Tetsuya Kato, Fredrik Pleijel, and Shunsuke Mawatari.
2) Two new species of *Platyneris* (Polychaeta: Nereididae) from eastern Mexican shores by Jesús Angel de León-González, Vivianne Solís-Weiss, and Verónica Valadez-Rocha.
3) A new species of Dorvilleidae (Annelida: Polychaeta) from a cold seep site in the northeast Pacific by Brigitte Hilbig and Dieter Fiege.
4) Revision of five species referred to *Myriochele* and *Galathowenia* (Polychaeta: Oweniidae) from the Antarctic Seas based upon type material by Julio Parapar.

Rick Rowe handed out a voucher sheet for *Notomastus* sp SD 1. This species was formerly referred to as *Notomastus tenuis* Moore 1909 by SCAMIT.

Tom Parker talked about his voucher sheet for *Loimia* sp. This is a draft which has been distributed, and Tom would appreciate comments and feedback.

There are two new employees at Los Angeles County Sanitation District. Lisa Haney will be working on crustaceans and echinoderms, and Shelly Walther will be involved with the data management system.

We then continued our critique of the MMS Taxonomic Atlas, Volume 7, with the Oweniidae, Chapter 5. Our common *Myriochele* sp M is now synonymized under *M. striolata.*

Rick Rowe pointed out the difficulty using couplet 4A and 4B. This couplet separates *Myriochele* and the newly proposed *Galathowenia*. Using the oral slit and mouth position to separate *Galathowenia* from *Myriochele* is difficult with many specimens. The preponderance of individuals with regenerated anterior ends and the variability of contraction in preserved material complicates attempts at generic placement using this couplet.

During the discussion Leslie Harris shared the following regarding *Myriowenia*. In the original description of *Myriochele gracilis* Hartman 1955, Dr. Hartman included in part (pl. 2, figs. 3, 4 and 5) what she would describe in 1960 as *Myriowenia californiensis.* Hartman specifically listed the 1955 illustration (pl. 2, fig.5) of the anterior end included in the original description of *M. gracilis* in the synonymy of her 1960 description of *Myriowenia californiensis*. Leslie thinks that her statement in the original description, that *M. gracilis* has uncini starting on the 4th setiger, came from a specimen of *Myriowenia* as well as the illustrations of uncini (pl. 2, figs. 3 and 4). Leslie originally presented this emendation of *Myriochele gracilis* in 1985 (SCAMIT Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 2, 3). The MMS Taxonomic Atlas Vol. 7, page 108 contains an additional discussion of the corrections to Hartman's original descriptions.

Couplet 7A and 7B in the key on page 101 uses thoracic uniramous setiger counts to separate *Myriochele olgae* from *M. gracilis* and *M. striolata*. Leslie Harris believes specimens of *M. olgae* to be juveniles of *M. gracilis*. Leslie has looked at a paratype lot of *M. olgae* and identified them as juvenile *M. gracilis*. The tubes of these specimens were similar to tubes

of *M. gracilis*. The holotype of *M. gracilis* has uncini that start on setiger 3. Additionally, Leslie has seen specimens with an unequal number of uniramous setigers. At least one paratype has uncini that start on setiger 3 on one side of the animal and setiger 4 on the other side. Therefore, SCAMIT does not concur with the usage of *M. olgae* and concluded that *M. gracilis* can have uncini starting on setiger 3 or setiger 4.

The note on the bottom of page 102 of the MMS Taxonomic Atlas, Volume 7 states that *G. wilsoni* fragments between setigers one and two, and the posterior body fragments have been mistakenly identified as *Myriochele scotiae* Hartman 1978, further evidence that fragmentation and regeneration complicate identification of many specimens.

Rick has observed methyl green staining patterns of *Myriochele* which seem to be useful for some identifications, especially regenerating or very small individuals. Several of the worm specialists at the City of San Diego are evaluating the use of staining to help separate the hundreds of specimens often encountered in their samples. The observed staining patterns will be compared to those reported in the MMS Taxonomic Atlas, Volume 7. Color images will be presented to SCAMIT if the staining patterns prove useful. As Leslie Harris pointed out at the meeting, observing the arrangement and type of sand grains utilized for tube construction is a quick and reliable way to separate two of SCAMIT's most common species, *M. striolata* and *M. gracilis*.

Galathowenia piltzi and *G. pygidialis* were discussed next. In order to distinguish these 2 species using couplet 6 on page 101, one must have complete specimens. This is often not the case with owenids as they readily fragment in the thoracic region. Rick Rowe has stained several specimens of *G. pygidialis* and has found two different methyl green staining patterns. Specimens collected from shallow water had a wedge-shaped area of stain anterior to the first setae, and the specimens collected from deeper water had rings encircling the notosetae. According to the description listed in the MMS Taxonomic Atlas Vol. 7, *G. piltzi* has a wedge of stain anterior to the first setal fascicle and occurs in shallower water than *G. pygidialis*. The possibility exists that we are collecting *G. piltzi* in addition to *G. pygidialis*, and we agreed to examine the methyl green staining patterns of specimens we are calling *G. pygidialis*. A correction was noted on page 106, 1st paragraph, line 5; delete "abdominal".

The next species under discussion was *Owenia johnsoni*. It is found in shallow subtidal sandy sediments and lacks pigment (unlike *O. collaris* which has pigment). No one at the meeting has reported *O. johnsoni* although a couple of members believe they have seen it. We will be on the look-out for it.

SCAMIT agrees with Blake's use of *Owenia collaris* for those specimens we have recently referred to *Owenia fusiformis*. See Blake's analysis separating several distinct forms of *Owenia* beginning on page 118.

Next we reviewed the Trichobranchidae, Chapter 10. In the Remarks section on page 299, Hilbig comments on the condition of the type specimen of *Artacamella hancocki* and notes an error in Hartman's 1955 description of the type. However, the type specimen was not examined by Hilbig (see Material Examined section on page 298). We made a correction to Figure 10.1.A on page 298. There should be uncini on setigers 1 and 2. "Uncini from setiger 1" is a character used in couplet 1A in the key to distinguish *Artacamella hancocki*. It was mentioned that figures more representative of our local specimens can be found in Holthe, 1977, page 36.

Octobranchus sp A - In Material Examined, add "collected at 591 meters" at the end of the sentence. This unusual species has prolonged notopodial lobes and a large paddle-shaped lip below the main fang on the uncini.

Terebellides californica - There were no comments.

Terebellides horikoshii -This species has not been recorded in this area. There is a correction on page 304, 2nd paragraph, line 3; change “with main fag” to “with main fang”.

Terebellides reishi - The illustration in Figure 10.5.A, page 305, looks different than the specimens that we identify as *T. reishi*. The local specimens have no anterior extension on the parapods.

Terebellides sp A - As noted in the Remarks section on page 307, these are immature specimens. Meeting participants believe it was premature to assign a provisional species status to these immature specimens.

Terebellides sp C - These specimens are also immature and appear to be different than Williams 1984 *T.* sp C.

SCAMIT recommends the use of Williams 1984 Terebellid key, since the key in this chapter does not include some of our local species. *T.* sp Type C (nr. *stroemi*) and *T.* sp Type D (nr. *kobei* and a likely synonymy), both of Williams 1984, are present locally.

Then we viewed a specimen of *Bizzarobranchus* sp A from Tony Phillips that was collected in 1988 from LA3 dumpsite. This unique specimen had 2 pairs of peristomial wings and 16 thoracic setigers.

We also examined a specimen of *Trichobranchus* sp HYP 1 brought by Tony. This species was reported from Catalina station 2075 at a depth of 65 meters during the Bight’98 project. Characters include 15 thoracic setigers, thoracic uncini start on setiger 6, three pairs of thin, filiform branchiae on segments 2-4, prostomium not bilobate, eyes absent, peristomium simple, enlarged ventrally to form a thick lip with longitudinal folds, connected laterally are a pair of wide, thin wing-like lobes that extend dorsally. This specimen has approximately 70 abdominal setigers. This appears to be a new generic record for this area.

The discussion diverged momentarily to the topic of *Nereis procera*. Leslie had examined the holotype and illustrated the prostomial area with an everted proboscis. It is noteworthy that the proboscis of the holotype had significantly smaller paragnaths than local specimens of *N. procera* collected near Hyperion. Leslie also requested that we gather specimens of *N. eakini* a nereid with a very uniquely pigmented body for which no good illustrations exist.

The first genus to review in the Terebellidae chapter was *Pista*. We examined a specimen brought by Rick Rowe. It had large lateral lappets and a pronounced ridge originating from the base of the 2nd pair of branchiae extending dorsally on the expanded 2nd segment. The specimen was collected from Mexico borderlands. No one could place a species name on it, and it matched none of the species in the chapter, so the identification will remain as *Pista* sp. for now.

Pista bansei: On page 271, in the Remarks section, we agreed with the last line, “The two species should perhaps be synonymized, but until the type material can be compared, the specimens called *Pista* sp B(of Phase I and Phase II) are assigned to *P. bansei* because of the clearly long-shafted thoracic uncini.”

Pista elongata: This species has anterior uncini that are much larger than most other species of *Pista*. *P. dekkerae* and *P. pacifica* are two more species that share this character, distinguishing all three of these species from other species of *Pista*. Leslie commented that she has examined specimens of *P. elongata* collected from Puget Sound, Washington, and they turned out to be more accurately identified as *P. dekkerae*.

Pista wui: A correction was noted on page 280; under the Remarks section, in the 5th line, change "*P. disujuncta*" to "*P. disjuncta* ". The idea of including our local *P. disjuncta* as a synonym of *P. wui* was discussed. Leslie explained that she has examined specimens of *P. wui*, identified by Saphronova from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, and they are different from *P. wui* described on page 279. In *P. wui* sensu stricto, the nephridial papillae occur in indentations which *P. disjuncta* does not have. These nephridial "pits" occur just dorsal and posterior to the notopodial lobes on two anterior setigers. We then examined a specimen of *P. wui* that Leslie brought out from the collection identified by Saphronova and confirmed this observation. In consideration of this information, SCAMIT does not consider *P. disjuncta* a synonym of *P. wui* at this time, and *P. wui* sensu Hilbig (on page 279) is not *P. wui* sensu stricto nor *P. disjuncta* sensu SCAMIT. The next question was, are the specimens that we call *P. disjuncta* sensu SCAMIT more than one species? We decided to use *P. disjuncta* sensu SCAMIT as we have been using it, acknowledging that it is a complex. We will modify the SCAMIT species list to *P. "disjuncta"* .

Proclea graffi - The only comment made was that this is not our *Proclea* sp A. It has a different methyl green staining pattern. We have not reported *P. graffi*, but *P.* cf *graffi* occurs in rocks along our coast and has bands of stain on the dorsum according to Leslie Harris.

Proclea sp B - We have not reported this species. Leslie says this is very similar to *P. graffi* but matures at a much smaller size.

Scionella japonica - We record this species and had no comments about the description.

Spinosphaera pacifica - Rick has a voucher sheet for *S.* sp SD 1 that is very similar to this species. It was decided that since we do not know if the presence of eyespots is significant, we cannot assume that the specimens described here (sensu Hilbig, with eyespots) are the same as Hessle's *S. pacifica* (without eyespots). SCAMIT will continue to use *S.* sp SD 1 and note that it may be synonymous with *S. pacifica* sensu Hilbig.

Identification of certain species of *Pista* has been problematic for a long time and has been addressed before without a satisfactory resolution. Once again we will attempt to resolve this issue but with a different strategy this time. Leslie proposed, and we decided, to implement a specimen exchange where members from each organization will pull 7 specimens of each species of *Pista* they encounter and exchange them at a future meeting.

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Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: http://www.scamit.org

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TAXONOMIC DATABASES MEETING - SCAMIT AUGUST 2001

A meeting to discuss the applicability of taxonomic database software to the management of descriptive data for monitoring programs will be hosted by SCAMIT (Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists) on August 20.

When: Monday, August 20th 9:30 - ??

Where: SCCWRP (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project) 7171 Fenwick Lane, Westminster, CA 92683

Map & directions @ http://www.sccwrp.org/contact/map.htm

This open forum discussion will not be limited to SCAMIT members. Any taxonomist or database specialist with experience using or developing descriptive datasets is encouraged to attend.

Impetus:
The 2003 regional EMAP program sponsored by the U.S.E.P.A. will bring together major dischargers along the west coast from the state of Washington to Baja California, Mexico. While studies in the Southern California Bight have relied on the taxonomic standardization provided by SCAMIT, the 2003 regional EMAP survey will require additional tools to ensure comparability among taxonomic datasets. Can the employment of taxonomic database software increase the probability of creating more comparable datasets?

Anticipated topics:
Is there a standard among taxonomic database programs? Are the proprietary software packages suitable (e.g., Linnaeus II)? Would the effort required to develop a taxonomic dataset be worthwhile? Can a developed database system help to compensate for the disparate levels of expertise inherent among identifiers involved in a large, regional study? How can several agencies coordinate their efforts to increase the efficiency of dataset creation and compatibility? What resources are available (e.g., personnel, funding, and agency participation)?

Participation:
Please bring questions, tales of success or failure, and any pertinent information.

If you wish to present (i.e., Powerpoint, ‘chalk talk’, or more informally) please contact Rick Rowe, City of San Diego Ocean Monitoring Program (619) 758-2333 or r6r@sdcity.sannet.gov

We will have a multimedia projector available