



Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists

March, 2005

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 23, No. 11

SUBJECT:	Crustacea - Part II
GUEST SPEAKER:	Discussion Lead - Dean Pasko
DATE:	13 June 2005
TIME:	9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p. m.
LOCATION:	City of San Diego EMTS Lab

14 MARCH MINUTES



Stomphia vinosa
Collected off Santa Rosa Island, July 04
Photo by D. Cadien, LACSD

We held a brief business meeting as Megan Lilly was the only officer present. The idea of an “on-line auction” situation for the sale of the SCAMIT library, versus having a “first come, first serve basis” sale was discussed. Some people felt an auction would allow people more of a chance to purchase the literature they wanted. However, this idea was not adopted and the library will be sold as originally promised to the members.

Nick Haring mentioned that a new coral had been discovered in the SCB (Opresko 2005). John then showed us how to use his 3-D viewer to examine photos in the “Scleractinia of the Temperate North Pacific” (Cairns 1994). John claimed this is “the” paper to use when trying to ID local corals.

We then proceeded into another room where John showed us a power-point presentation entitled, “New Anthozoa from Bight 03 and other interesting Cnidarians”. A CD of the

presentation was given to a representative from each agency present. A printed version of the presentation will not be made available through the newsletter, as printing it in color would be cost prohibitive. The presentation is referenced frequently in the following minutes and readers are encouraged to either download a version from the Taxonomic Tools Section of the SCAMIT website or contact John Ljubenkov or Megan Lilly to receive a copy.

The first animal to be discussed was *Stomphia vinosa* (McMurrich, 1893). This animal was originally seen by Don Cadien (LACSD) and was being referred to as simply the “lozenge anemone” for its appearance after being trawled up from depth. However, once relaxed in water, the animal takes on a different and characteristic look (see cover photo). It has a very wide foot that is reminiscent of a skirt around the base of the animal. There is an initial bare zone around the oral disk and then a series of inner tentacles which are longer than the outer series. This animal was originally seen from the Albatross material.

Stephanauge annularis Carlgren 1937 was the next animal to be viewed. John showed photos of the animal wrapped around gorgonians, as well as living on *Boreotrophon bentleyi*. It is also commonly found on plastic snack-food containers and other bits of trash. John felt, from his experience with the animal, that it had a decided preference for “cheese crackers with peanut-butter filling”... This little pink anemone is fairly distinctive with its bumpy surface and pedal disk that flattens out and covers or wraps around whatever object on which it is living.

Next up was a strange, undescribed anthozoa, Actiniaria sp 10. One thing to look for is the presence of a capitulum. It also has distinctive mesenteries which John said were consistent in appearance. There was some concern over confusing it with *Halianthella* sp A as the external appearance was very similar. The tentacles of Actiniaria sp 10, however are

located near the anterior end of the animal, even after preservation. In *Halianthella* sp A the tentacles are located approximately half way down the length of the animal due to the fact that it possesses a long scapulus which is capable of retraction; a character not shared by Actiniaria sp 10. To date, it has been collected in 75m and 160m.

John reviewed Actiniaria sp 49, which is better known as the “brown tent” anemone. This animal is usually easy to recognize because of its distinctive flat nature and if viewed ventrally is transparent. Most members present had seen it as it’s been collected occasionally in southern California in rocky substrate on the outer shelf.

The familiar *Pentactinia californica* was discussed next. This large (up to 3 cm as an adult) gravel/sand covered anemone, with a physa, is fairly recognizable, although some of us present expressed our concerns about confusing juveniles (or fragmented individuals; a common condition) with large specimens of *Halianthella* sp A. However, there are differences, the primary one being that *P. californica* has 10 mesenteries (5 pairs) whereas *H. sp A* has 12 (6 pairs) and the body wall of *P. californica* is thinner and less muscular. *P. californica* enjoys coarse sediments, often with shell debris present.

Speaking of *Halianthella* sp A, it was up next for examination. We were reminded that there is often a purplish color associated with the tentacles (after preservation). It is one of our more common anemones and one that most people felt fairly comfortable identifying (although perhaps not as much after the meeting...read on for more details).

Staying in the mode of *Halianthella* John has erected a new one – *Halianthella* sp B (Actiniaria 109). It is fairly distinctive looking and consistently has a strange “ruffled” margin. It gets up to 4cm in length. It was found fairly shallow – 23m and 45ft. However, Dean Pasko, Megan Lilly and Shelly Walthers, all agreed



that they would have leaned towards calling this animal *Zaolutus actius*. It was large, white, semi-rugose, and had many tentacles which were pigmented internally. John assured us it was not *Zaolutus*, but we weren't all totally convinced.

We then reviewed *Anemonactis* sp A. This animal has distinctive capitate tentacles, numbering 12-16 even at larger sizes, and has a rugose column. An animal that can be similar in appearance is *Zaolutus actinus*, but this animal usually has 20 or more tentacles and they are not capitate.

John found a strange little Edwardsiid anemone present in large numbers in some of the WEMAP samples from Morro Bay. They are variable in nature and John has yet to put together a description of them.

An animal that caused a bit of a stir (this happened a few times during the day) was *Gonactinia prolifera*. It is the simplest anemone in the order Actiniaria. It has 8 mesenteries in a "bag" with a few large tentacles. It is found shallow, 10-15m, and is a recent exotic introduction to the area and is doing well, thanks. The uproar was that Megan and Dean (both CSD) felt that they could confuse it with a juvenile *Zaolutus*. Although the tentacle count was less (8-12?), there were little "purplish spots" within the tentacles, as seen in *Zaolutus* and the overall gestalt of the animal was similar (white column which was papillated exteriorly). One interesting aside however is the tentacles of *Gonactinia prolifera* are non-retractile, which I don't believe is the case for *Zaolutus*.

There were two strange anthozoans examined next, *Zoanthidea* sp A and *Zoanthidea* sp B. They are small and encrusted/cemented with sand and forams. Internal examination via a longitudinal section of the entire animal, shows them to be mostly empty internally with the exception of a few tentacles near the anterior

end. The primary difference between *Z. sp A* and *Z. sp B* is the presence of a flattened base with a limbus in the former and a rounded base with no limbus in the latter.

Next up were the sea pens. The first animal to be discussed was *Virgularia* sp B. This animal is unique in that it has only 2-7 polyps per leaf as in *V. agassizii*, but the polyps are darkly pigmented as in *V. californica*. Another difference is that the pigment extends onto the leaf part of the rachis as well as the rachis itself. So far it has been collected at 46m on Island shelves.

Another undescribed *Virgularia* was discussed. John left the ID at *Virgularia* sp. This animal was collected in deeper waters, 800+ meters. The animal is white and there are only 2 polyps per leaf with the leaves arranged in sub-opposite pairs. There is just a slight staggering to their insertion on the rachis.

One of the more bizarre creatures of the day was *Pennatulacea* sp A. It was collected at 630m. It has only one polyp per leaf and has large, needle-like spicules throughout the flesh. Although the specimen collected is obviously a juvenile, John feels it is indicative of the adult form, which doesn't match anything we've previously sampled in the SCB.

To finalize the day, John quickly reviewed colonial hydroids that could be found on mollusk shells. Two of the more common species are *Leuckartiara octona* and *Rhizorhagium formosum*. They are differentiated on the basis of the location of their reproductive structures, with *L. octona* having structures on the hydranth pedicel and *R. formosum* having structures on the hydrorhiza. For more information on this, see the SCAMIT NL Vol 23 no. 1&2 (a compendium newsletter).

That ended the discussion and the morning. After breaking for sandwiches outside we returned for a round of "taxonomy wrestling" in which we all took turns staring at anemones



and arguing about the identifications. Like I always say, “anemones bring out the best in people”. Dean Pasko and Megan Lilly, in particular drove John crazy by trying to call everything either *Zaolutus actinus* or *Halianthella* sp A. Although, it must be said, that Shelly Walther, LACSD, agreed with us on a few specimens and would have identified them the same way if left to her own devices. John was able to usually win the argument, but not without some effort. He had us “mostly” convinced by the end of the day.

The cnidarians are a difficult group at best and meetings such as this are necessary to keep us all on the same taxonomic page.

- M. Lilly

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(The following candidates were just recently nominated at May’s meeting, but I’m “time-traveling” and including their statements with this newsletter in order to get us back on track for elections...sort of...)

PRESIDENT

Kelvin Barwick

I graduated with a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from Texas A&M University in 1983. Currently I work for the City of San Diego’s Ocean Monitoring Program as a marine biologist/taxonomist. My taxonomic specialties are Mollusks and Polychaetes. In the past I have worked both as an independent taxonomic consultant, and for private environmental consulting firms, accumulating over 14 years experience in invertebrate taxonomy. I have been an active participant in SCAMIT for over 10 years and served as its Secretary in 1991-1992. I hope to continue to develop our goals and plans for the future.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Leslie Harris

Collections manager of the Allan Hancock Foundation Polychaete Collection, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Ongoing research centers on taxonomy of the polychaete fauna of pacific North America, polychaete-algal associations (especially in *Macrocystis*), introduced species, and Caribbean reef polychaetes.

SECRETARY

Megan Lilly

Graduated from Humboldt State University in 1991 with a B.S. in Marine Biology. From 1991-1993, worked at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History where the taxonomy of marine mollusks was studied. Currently working as a marine biologist for the City of San Diego’s Ocean Monitoring Program. Specialties include echinoderms, miscellaneous phyla and mollusks with an emphasis on cephalopods.

TREASURER

Cheryl Brantley

Cheryl is a marine biologist with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. She has worked for the Districts for over 16 years, primarily as a polychaete taxonomist. She graduated with her B.A. degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1985. She has formerly served as Secretary of SCAMIT from 1994-1998.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please peruse the three job announcements that are attached at the end of the newsletter. All three positions are located within southern California.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cairns, S. 1994. Scleractinia of the Temperate North Pacific. Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology no. 557.



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

SCAMIT OFFICERS:

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers at their e-mail addresses:

President	Kelvin Barwick (619)758-2337	kbarwick@sandiego.gov
Vice-President	Leslie Harris (213)763-3234	lharris@nhm.org
Secretary	Megan Lilly (619)758-2336	mlilly@sandiego.gov
Treasurer	Cheryl Brantley (310)830-2400x5500	cbrantley@lacsds.org

Back issues of the newsletter are available. Prices are as follows:

Volumes 1 - 4 (compilation).....	\$ 30.00
Volumes 5 - 7 (compilation).....	\$ 15.00
Volumes 8 - 15	\$ 20.00/vol.

Single back issues are also available at cost.

The SCAMIT newsletter is published monthly and is distributed freely through the web site at www.scamit.org. Membership is \$15 for the electronic copy available via the web site and \$30 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$60. All new members receive a printed copy of the most current edition of "A Taxonomic Listing of Soft Bottom Macro- and Megainvertebrates ... in the Southern California Bight." The current edition, the fourth, contains 2,067 species with partial synonyms. All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

SCAMIT

C/O The Natural History Museum, Invertebrate Zoology

attn: Leslie Harris

900 Exposition Boulevard

Los Angeles, California, 90007

San Diego Stream Team Position Announcement

Background

The San Diego Stream Team (SDST) is a San Diego County-based non-profit organization dedicated to monitoring water quality in local creeks and streams using California Rapid Bioassessment protocols. The SDST mission is to increase citizen involvement in stream monitoring and produce quality data to address water quality problems.

Position Title

Program Coordinator

Position Definition

The Program Coordinator will perform various technical and administrative tasks related to the coordination of a citizen-based rapid bioassessment monitoring program, using benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) as indicators of water quality. The successful candidate will lead the coordination of sampling activities, develop and disseminate event information and maintain records and reports. This position will report to the Board of Directors.

Primary Job Duties

Typical tasks and essential skills required of this position are as follows:

1. Perform outreach duties related to specific program needs and volunteer/intern recruitment.
2. Prepare, recruit and train volunteers in approved sampling techniques and protocols.
3. Coordinate biological assessment workshops for citizen monitors.
4. Coordinate field sampling crews in the collection and handling of BMI samples.
5. Coordinate laboratory sample processing of BMI samples.
6. Purchase supplies and equipment needed to conduct sampling and processing.
7. Coordinate posting of information on the San Diego Stream Team website.
8. Prepare public dissemination documents including newsletters, press releases and event announcements.
9. Compile, compute, review, present and analyze data in an organized fashion
10. Maintain records and financial data to track project costs.
11. Present to public and private groups the SDST mission, its goals and needs
12. Additional duties as directed

Experience

Experience in coordinating the activities of a non-profit organization is required. Experience in bioassessment is helpful, but not necessary. Successful candidate will have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs to manage data, generate reports, and produce presentation and promotional materials. (Word, Excel, Explorer, Power Point)

Compensation

This is a part-time, temporary position at 20 hours per week for 24 months at a rate of \$23 per hour. Additional grant funding may extend the position and increase hours.

Contract and Application

The full contract period is 24 months beginning approximately June 2005 at 20 hours per week with contractor working from their personal home. Employee will be provided with a computer and compensated for internet and telephone service. Personal transportation will be provided by the employee and compensated for mileage. Some evening and weekend hours are required.

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume and names of three references by 5:00 PM, June 1, 2005 to:

Email: sdstreamteam@earthlink.net

Or by FAX to: 760-940-1347

Or by MAIL to: Lilian Busse

13330 Portofino Drive

Del Mar, CA 92014

**STAFF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST OR ENGINEER
AQUATIC FOCUS**

Anchor is seeking an Environmental Scientist or Engineer to work in its San Diego or Irvine, CA office. The position will provide expertise in sediment management and support in permitting of maintenance dredging and natural resource projects in Southern and Northern California. Other responsibilities include managing tasks from beginning through completion; sediment and water collection field work; report production and coordination; assisting in the development of new work opportunities; and general project administrative duties associated with a small office. Qualified candidates will be interested in being a part of a growing office, and be able to function independently and proactively with minimal supervision. Master's degree is preferred with 3-5 years related work experience. A chemistry or biological background, knowledge of sediment testing regulations (Green Book, ITM, PSDDA), CEQA/NEPA and/or sediment remediation concepts is a plus.

Anchor is an environmental science and engineering consulting firm. We offer an excellent benefits package including employer-sponsored health care, 401(k) + match, and Incentive Pay Program. Please email your resume and salary requirements to careers@anchorenv.com with *Irvine/San Diego Staff Environmental Scientist/Engineer* in the subject line.

www.anchorenv.com

We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

**IRVINE SR. ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL
AQUATIC FOCUS**

Anchor is seeking a full-time Senior Environmental Professional to work in its **Irvine**, CA office. Technical expertise may be in sediment management, aquatic toxicology, waterway engineering, or natural resources. In addition to managing projects and clients, the position is responsible for business and staff development as part of a geographic expansion of our Seattle-based company. Candidates should have a minimum of 8 -10 years experience and a Masters. Strong leadership and communication skills are a must.

Anchor is an environmental science and engineering consulting firm. We offer an excellent benefits package including employer-sponsored health care, 401(k) + match, and Incentive Pay Program. Please email your resume and salary requirements to careers@anchorenv.com with *Irvine Sr. Environmental Professional* in the subject line.

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