

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS



Sept–December 2021

SCAMIT Newsletter

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Various color phases of *Rossia pacifica*  
OCSD trawls, station T19, 2 Sept 2021, 137m  
Photo by K. Barwick

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### This Issue

13 SEPTEMBER 2021, MOLLUSKS, LEAD T. PHILLIPS, ZOOM .....	2
12 OCTOBER 2021, MISCELLANEOUS PHYLA, LEAD M. LILLY, ZOOM .....	3
12 DECEMBER 2021, ALL HANDS MEETING, ZOOM .....	5
REFERENCES .....	7
SCAMIT OFFICERS .....	8

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The SCAMIT newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes

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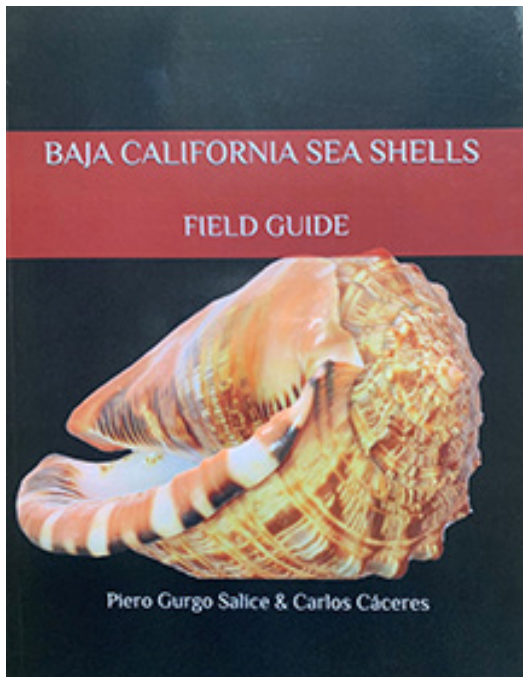
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**13 SEPTEMBER 2021, MOLLUSKS, LEAD T. PHILLIPS, ZOOM**


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**Attendance:** Tony Phillips, DCE; Susan Kidwell, Broc Kokesh, University of Chicago; Greg Lyon, CLAEMD; Kelvin Barwick, OCSd; Diane O’Donohue, Jessica Donald, Heather Petersen, Alison Fisher, SFPUC; Wendy Enright, Megan Lilly, CSD; JoJo Loan, Don Cadien, Brent Haggin, Terra Petry LACSD; Paul Valentich Scott, SBMNH; Angelica Zavala Lopez, MTS Carol Paquette, MBC; Austin Hendy, NHMLAC.

The day opened with Dr. Kidwell introducing her grad student, Broc Kokesh. Kelvin then had the floor and wanted to preview a new book he recently purchased, *Baja California Sea Shells Field Guide* by Piero Gurgo Salice and Carlos



**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Visit the SCAMIT website at: [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org) for the most current meetings announcements.

Cáceres Martínez (2021). He learned of it at last June’s annual meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists. It attempts to illustrate and name all shelled mollusks found along the shoreline of the entire Baja peninsula. It consists of good color photos of 1,097 species arranged by class and family into 109 plates. Each plate caption includes not only the binomials and authorities, but general locality information and the size, in millimeters, of the specimens pictured. Along with a name index there is a phylogenetic listing and a bibliography. Kelvin purchased it at Amazon.com for \$50. Paul recommended it, noting that a guide to the gastropods hasn’t really been updated since Keen in the 1970s. Next, Kelvin shared some great field photos of *Rossia pacifica* going through various phases of camouflage.

Business closed and Tony began with his very thorough and informative presentation which covered the - Nuculidae, Solemyidae, Nucinellidae, Bathyspinulidae, Nuculanidae, Mallettiidae, Neilonellidae, Yoldiidae, and Tindariidae. The names used follow Ed 13. This presentation will be an invaluable resource for local SCB bivalve taxonomists.

Below are comments that arose from various slides throughout the talk:

With regards to *Acila* – Paul discussed juveniles and how the cancellate sculpture is not yet developed which can cause them to be confused with juvenile Nuculanids. However, *Acila* will be more inflated at the umbos than juvenile Nuculanids.

Don stated that while *Acharax* is usually found in deeper, sulfide-rich waters, they have been sampled in shallower waters if the associated sediments are anoxic.

*Huxleyia munita* – it was noted that they have become less prevalent in samples over time. Paul mentioned that they are normally encountered at 200m or deeper, but CSD used to sample them with some regularity at 100m. There was some musing that perhaps warming ocean temperatures



are pushing them deeper in to waters that CSD doesn't sample for its regular monitoring program.

*Tindariopsis grasslei* - the range has been extended north to San Diego County in 1000m. It was collected by MBARI and identified by Paul.

*Ledella fiascona* – If it is found in Southern California it will be in deeper waters; 1000+ m range, according to Paul.

Some questions arose about separating *Nuculana* sp A from *Nuculana* sp OC1. It was noted that Kelvin should distribute pictures of his *Nuculana* sp OC1. Supposedly *Nuculana* sp OC1 is found a little deeper, 150+m and has a different tooth count. However, not everyone was convinced of its difference from *Nuculana* sp A. Paul commented that tooth counts are not a great tool as some amount of variability is normal; in order for tooth count to be a valid difference between species, you would need almost “twice as many” teeth from one species to the other. An additional concern is that hinge teeth are added with growth.

*Yoldiella* sp A should be removed in Ed 14. It was originally identified incorrectly and was later determined to be a *Yoldiella nana*. There is a valid *Yoldiella* sp A created by Paul, but it is not the same animal as what Tony recorded, and it is not from the SCB. Therefore, Tony's provisional shouldn't be included in the SCAMIT species list since technically it hasn't been identified from Southern California.

## 12 OCTOBER 2021, MISCELLANEOUS PHYLA, LEAD M. LILLY, ZOOM

**Attendance:** Brent Haggin, Chase McDonald, JoJo Loan, Terra Petry, Don Cadien, LACSD; Jennifer Smolenski, Cody Larsen, CLAEMD; Wendy Enright, Megan Lilly, Zoë Scott, Stephanie Smith, CSD; Ben Ferraro, Ernie Ruckman, Dany Tang, OCSD; Dean Pasko, Tony Phillips, DCE; Jessica Donald SFPUC; Angelica Zavala Lopez, MTS; Robin Gartman, retired.

The business portion of the meeting was brief, so we started off the day discussing juvenile ascidians, and when to back off to Stolidobranchiata vs Ascidacea. It was decided that a meeting on juvenile ascidians and ID protocols was probably needed. There was a word of caution regarding establishing set guidelines as this can oftentimes add more complexity than clarity. During Bight surveys the ID usually gets dropped back to the higher taxon level due to differences in taxonomic effort and protocols across the different laboratories/taxonomists.

Campanulariidae – Megan asked if there was any species, other than *Laomedea calceolifera* that should be considered as a solitary, infauna animal, thereby qualifying it for inclusion in the data. It is part of the age-old debate between those who are strict about recording infauna only vs those that want to include epifauna (barnacles), epibionts (many hydrozoa and barnacles), and parasites (shrimp parasites-Bopyridae). No satisfactory consensus was reached. It was suggested that Misc Phyla taxonomists will need to revisit this with regards to regional monitoring as we sample in different habitats. Jennifer Smolenski said she might try to create a presentation justifying more inclusivity. However, it was pointed out that especially for the Bight projects, we should be more conservative with our IDs since the Bight manual excludes fouling communities.

The question arose as to whether anyone other than DCE taxonomists use *Edwardsia* sp as an identification or is the more common practice to back off to Family Edwardsiidae? Many present said they use Edwardsiidae as the standard for backing off. We noted, however, if a phyla is present taxonomists should be comfortable taking the specimen to genus.



*Pentactinia californica* - CSD samples this species in shallow, coarse sediment stations in their South Bay monitoring. However, Jojo had recorded a specimen from deep water, which raised a few eyebrows. She distributed pictures and an ID sheet and the animal did appear to be *P. californica*. This suggests that this species may be more dependent on sediment-type than depth.

What to do with “Enopla”, Hoplonemertea, Monostylifera sp, and Monostilifera, with regards to which is correct for backing off. The decision was that since Class Enopla (as well as Class Anopla) “went away” with Ed 13 (Strand et al 2018) it is no longer appropriate to use with the exception of historical provisional species names. Monostylifera sp and Monostilifera both come with complications as well so the consensus was to back off to Hoplonemertea.

This led to a discussion of *Tetrastemma* sp, Tetrastemmidae, and Amphiporidae vs Hoplonemertea. The final decision was that if the taxonomist has “no idea”, the proper level to back off the identification to is Hoplonemertea. One exception would be if someone is working in a station with high abundances of known Amphiporid species, there is the potential to apply Amphiporidae to damaged or smaller specimens, assuming that the general morphology is well matched.

Phoronida vs Phoronidae – We decided that backing off to Phoronidae was most appropriate. A discussion around counting protocols (i.e., how to distinguish regenerating heads from those that have been lopped off) will need a future meeting.

Similar questions arose around Sipuncula and Sipunculidea. Changes will be coming in Ed 14 so at the time of this meeting it was decided to do nothing as the SLRC will be tackling this issue.

Dean asked if agencies routinely record nematodes? There was a resounding response of “no”, other than CSD who counts and records nematodes for historical data consistency. We noted though that nematodes are excluded from Bight data analyses.

Cerianthidae vs Ceriantharia was discussed and the consensus was for Ceriantharia.

A moment was taken to discuss that the ID of Lineidae, which is used for those animals with cephalic slits, vs Heteronemertea for those animals without cephalic slits but with Heteronemertean musculature and LNC placement. Some of the animals identified as Heteronemertea have cephalic “lines” that almost appear as shallow cephalic slits or that have very short, very shallow cephalic slits.

Tubulanidae vs *Tubulanus* sp vs Palaeonemertea – all these identifications are valid and acceptable. Anything with a white preservation ring is Tubulaniformes.

Turning to flatworms: Leptoplanidae vs Leptoplanoidea – consensus was for the use of Leptoplanoidea.

With that it was time to review voucher sheets. Lineidae sp DC1 Pasko 2019 - this specimen became incorporated into Cody’s Lineidae sp Hyp3 Larsen & Pasko 2019. The final sheet was published in Vol 39 no 4 under the new SCAMITized name, Lineidae sp B.

Dean shared his identification sheets for *Phoronis* sp DC 1, Actiniaria sp DC2, Hoplonemertea sp DC1 and Hoplonemertea sp DC2. All were reviewed and approved. They have since been published. See Volume 39 no 4.



**9 NOVEMBER 2021, POLYCHAETE KEY REVIEW, LEAD B. HAGGIN, ZOOM**

There are currently no minutes available for this meeting. However, if produced, they will be published in a future newsletter.

**12 DECEMBER 2021, ALL HANDS MEETING, ZOOM**

**Attendance:** Heather Peterson, CCSF; Don Cadien, Brent Haggin, Christine Boren, Terra Petry, JoJo Loan, LACSD; Erin Oderlin, Craig Campbell, Greg Lyon, JoAnne Linnenbrink, CLAEMD; Wendy Enright, Megan Lilly, Maiko Kasuya, Andrew Davenport, CSD; Tony Phillips, Dean Pasko, DCE; Leslie Harris, NHMLAC; Kelvin Barwick, OCSD. [There were more people present, but the final attendance sheet has not been located]

All meetings last year were virtual and it has been a convenient option for attendees from outside of southern California. As of now the meetings for 2022 are also scheduled to be virtual, with the hope of having an in-person meeting in June for the long-postponed DISCO workshop.

Don asked if the NHMLAC is open yet? Brent replied that the Museum is open to the public with proof of vax or negative test, and masks are required. Brent is hoping for hybrid meetings in the future so that those further away can continue to attend; he is envisioning a possible virtual presentation for the first half of meeting and specimen examination in the afternoon.

Officer Reports:

**President** - Brent Haggin: First up was the voucher sheet database project. Work is progressing and currently 34 sheets have been uploaded. It has been designed so that provisional species sheets can go through the verification process and be SCAMITized more seamlessly. Lineidae B has gone through the process and been published in Vol 39 no 4.

**Treasurer** - Erin Oderlin:

- 150 members worldwide
- over \$7500 available for publication grants; the last grant was awarded to Larry Lovell in 2020 for his *Levinsinia* paper
- she is keeping money in the PayPal account because it pays for the Zoom account but it is making payment tricky, so she would rather set up an ACH with Zoom. However, Zoom has been difficult to contact
- SCAMIT made more money this year due to meetings be virtual so there were no refreshment expenses
- The PO Box renewal is in May which is SCAMIT's fiscal year so sometimes members will see two payments in one year on our PO Box
- closed the CD because wasn't making much and the monies, approx. \$10k, were transferred into our checking account
- total cash is almost \$30k
- Erin is open to members' ideas for expenses
- the PayPal fee will be increasing, because PayPal is increasing fees on nonprofits



**Secretary** - Megan Lilly: She is still behind in newsletter production by about a year. She is hoping to start catching up next year and might do double issues to facilitate her efforts. Erin noted that an Institutional membership includes a hard copy but if you don't want a hard copy, just email Erin and let her know.

**Vice President** - Leslie Harris: SCAMIT had only 1 guest speaker this year, Sean Weidrick in January, but otherwise all meetings were virtual and there were no workshops. She made a point that the same people are doing meetings over and over and we need new members to step up. For SCAMIT to continue we need to have new people leading meetings, giving presentations and creating content.

Tony noted he has his bivalve presentations ready to go and can always fill in if a month is lacking a topic.

Leslie offered to reach out to Marie Nydam (Soka University), to lead an ascidian meeting. She will also reach out to Tom Lee Turner (UCSD), about leading a meeting on sponges. Megan will reach out to Rich Mooi about maybe leading another meeting on echinoderms.

With that Leslie went around the room and succeeded in filling the meeting calendar for next year (2022).

Kelvin Barwick was next to have the floor as Chair of the SLRC. Ed 13 of the SCAMIT Species List was published on 1 July 2021 and was no small feat.

- The process took 18 taxonomists and 4 editors
- There were 897 lines of emendation
- The number of taxa increased by 50 with a total of 3300 species level taxa

He thanked everyone for their assistance and wants to re-establish roles and responsibilities. Luckily Kelvin did offer to continue as chairman. He already was noting some priorities for Ed 14 and is hoping we can get it out in time for Bight'23. Tony stated that we really need to try since many of the B'18 species didn't make it in to Ed 13. He would like to see those species available for B'23. Another priority would be continuing to improve the process of incorporating provisional species. Tony noted some errors we missed in Ed 13, but that happens every time and is almost inevitable. Kelvin asked that we keep a list of errors as we note them.

Leslie was pleased to hear that dealing with provisionals is going to be a priority and would appreciate having provisional species documentation organized and available. Don reminded everyone that evidence needs to be marshalled for the provisional taxa, and that perhaps for Ed 14, we need to start applying rigid requirements. Accordingly, those taxa that are on the list and don't meet the established criteria for completeness, need to be dropped back to the Hold list. Don shared his process - as he finds a species that needs to be changed on the list, he prepares a discussion document and circulates it, for comment, to members of the review committee. This gives people a chance to review ahead of time and he felt that overall the model/system worked. Brent reiterated that if anyone is not yet on the SLRC and is interested in joining, to email Kelvin and let him know what phyla you would like to work on.

A Round Table discussion was next on the agenda:

We discussed the logistics of hybrid meetings and Brent offered to create an agency spreadsheet of who has what type of technology available.



- Brent – SCAMIT has its own gmail account now and consequently its own google drive for sharing options.
- Dean (Pasko) – we should research options for intermediate locations; Cabrillo Aquarium? MBC? SCCWRP? SCCWRP seems like the best option. Dean suggested Brent reached out to Christina about scheduling.
- Kelvin – brought up the idea of SCAMIT hosting a symposium at the upcoming WSM in June.
- Megan – noted that non “experts” can lead meetings and that often the best way to learn is to teach. She’d be happy to assist anyone who wants to host a meeting on one of the phyla in which she works.
- JoJo – asked if people are willing to share updated and new training materials as they are created? Megan responded that she is willing, but she needs reminders. Megan asked if the Toolbox is the best place for uploading materials and has some worries, as did other attendees, with it being public access and some materials not being in “final form” and ready for world domination. The feeling around the room was split with some feeling the Toolbox is the best option and others not feeling as comfortable with that choice.
- Leslie – told the room that she would like to hear comments and concerns from “new” people. A few people responded that they’d be willing to host a meeting but at the moment didn’t have any questions to address. Leslie suggested the development of a digital suggestion box for meeting topics.
- Andy mentioned that occasionally he has questions or ideas but doesn’t want to send them out to the entire SCAMIT listserver. What he would like to see is a member only forum on the website where people can post questions/notes.
- Kelvin made a motion, seconded by Megan, that SCAMIT form an Ad Hoc committee to investigate setting up a major phyla discussion forum on the website. Erin Oderlin volunteered to be Chair, with Andy, JoJo, and Cody, as committee members.
- JoAnne Linnenbrink requested an in-person meeting to review arthropod vouchers.

With that the Annual All Hands meeting was adjourned. The Executive Committee stayed online to discuss the SCAMIT webmaster role. It was moved, seconded, and approved, that Cody Larsen be brought on board as the new webmaster.

## REFERENCES

- Salice, P. G., and C. Martínez. 2021. Baja California Sea Shell Field Guide, Las Vegas, Nevada. pp 233.
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Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org)

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