

Melbourne Sea Slug Census VII

13-16 March 2020

Thanks to everyone who participated in the March 2020 Melbourne Sea Slug Census. To say that it was a challenging start to the year would be an understatement and we thank everyone for their continued support of the project, as well as following the advice of health and environmental authorities while out and about on our coast.

March saw over 75 people out searching for slugs and we received submissions from 14 different individuals or teams. The list of sites examined included: Beaumaris, Blairgowrie, Lonsdale Wall, Wilsons Promontory, Point Lonsdale, Portarlington, Portsea Hole, Sorrento Back Beach and South Channel Fort.

Together, we found a total of **61 species** of sea slug. And now to the results you've all been waiting for...

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count on the day) – **Paul Sorenson** and **Rebecca Lloyd**, who managed to find 30 species apiece!



BEST PHOTO (Awarded by Bob Burn)–
John Olden- *Tambja verconis*

"I keep going back to this shot because it clearly shows the internal detail of the ribbing within the accessory sensing organ. I know of only one other image showing this fully open and in use." –
Bob Burn.

Steve Smith of the Sea Slug Census project selected *Trinchesia* sp. RB2 by Nick Shaw as an honourable mention for this category. A great shot of this colourful aeolid clearly showing the striking, bright blue oral tentacles typical of this species

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES (Awarded by Bob Burn) – **Rebecca Lloyd** – *Elysia* sp. RB4

Bob selected Rebecca's striking *Elysia* as it is the most easterly report of this species to date. *Elysia* sp. RB4 is known from South Australia and western Victoria, but Rebecca spotted it at Beaumaris in Port Phillip Bay. It is distinguished from the similar looking *Elysia furvacauda* by the presence of small white pustules on the parapodial margins (in *E. furvacauda* the margins are smooth). Great find Rebecca.

Honourable mention: Corinne Telford - *Tamanovalva babai*

As Steve Smith notes, this very small species of sap-sucking slug is very hard to spot amongst its food source. It has been described by Bob Burn as having a limited range, endemic to eastern SA, central Vic and northern Tas, and Stephen himself has never seen one! Well done Corinne.

To help hone those identification skills, and to alert you all to some of the species you may have overlooked in the past, we have selected an image of each species found and provided the number of teams that found it (out of a total of 24). The initials of the photographers that took the image are shown in brackets (key to all photographers who submitted images below).

Photographers:

Andrew King (AK), Bill Van Eyk (BVE), Corinne Telford (CT), Edward Lee (EL), Ian Scholey (IS), Jacqui Pocklington- Parks Victoria (JP), Jeremy Aarons (JA), John Olden (JO), Julie Wrighton (JW), Karen Barwise and Milan Jelenko (KBMJ), Nick Shaw (NS), Paul Sorenson (PS), Rebecca Lloyd (RL), Stephen Goodall (SG)



Phyllodesmium serratum (SG)
(11 sightings)



Doriopsilla carneola (JW)
(10 sightings)



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (JO)
(8 sightings)



Goniobranchus tinctorius (KBMJ)
(8 sightings)



Tambja verconis (JA)
(8 sightings)



Verconia haliclona (KBMJ)
(8 sightings)



Verconia verconis (IS)
(8 sightings)



Facelina sp. RB3 (NS)
(5 sightings)



Trapania brunnea (JO)
(5 sightings)



Aplysiopsis formosa (PS)
(4 sightings)



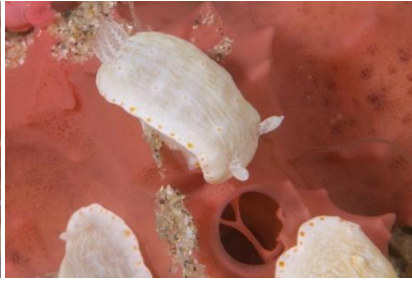
Carminodoris nodulosa (IS)
(4 sightings)



Chromodoris alternata (RL)
(4 sightings)



Discodoris paroa (RL)
(4 sightings)



Goniobranchus epicurius (RL)
(4 sightings)



Doris cameroni (IS)
(3 sightings)



Favorinus sp. RB1 (IS)
(3 sightings)



Madrella sanguinea (EL)
(3 sightings)



Thecacera pennigera (NS)
(3 sightings)



Tritonia sp. RB3 (IS)
(3 sightings)



Tubulophilinopsis lineolata (PS)
(3 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (JP)
(2 sightings)



Discodoris sp. (RL)
(2 sightings)



Facelina newcombi (NS)
(2 sightings)



Hermaea sp. RB1 (EL)
(2 sightings)



Jorunna hartleyi (RL)
(2 sightings)



Lamellaria australis (PS)
(2 sightings)



Placida sp. RB2 (PS)
(2 sightings)



Pleurobranchus hilli (SG)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia sp. RB2 (NS)
(2 sightings)



Aplysia cf. *parvula* (PS)
(1 sighting)



Aplysia juliana (NS)
(1 sighting)



Aplysia sowerbyi (RL)
(1 sighting)



Austreaolis ornata (IS)
(1 sighting)



Baeolidia australis (NS)
(1 sighting)



Berthella medietas (IS)
(1 sighting)



Berthellina citrina (SG)
(1 sighting)



Cerberilla incola (JO)
(1 sighting)



Cerberilla sp. RB1 (PS)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris arborescens (RL)
(1 sighting)



Diaphodoris sp. RB1 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Diversidoris sulphurea (RL)
(1 sighting)



Doto pita (NS)
(1 sighting)



Elysia coodgeensis (NS)
(1 sighting)



Elysia sp. RB4 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Facelina hartleyi (NS)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus tasmaniensis (RL)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoris meracula (RL)
(1 sighting)



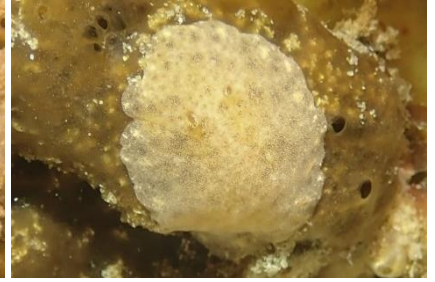
Gymnodoris alba (PS)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. RB2 (NS)
(1 sighting)



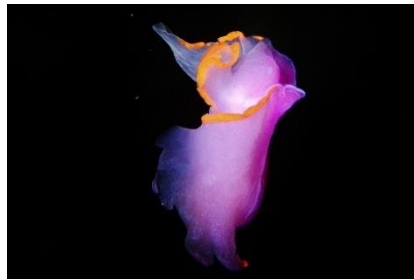
Mexichromis macropus (IS)
(1 sighting)



Paradoris dubia (PS)
(1 sighting)



Rostanga crawfordi (IS)
(1 sighting)



Sagaminopteron ornatum (NS)
(1 sighting)



Tamanovalva babai (CT)
(1 sighting)



Tambja dracomus (PS)
(1 sighting)



Thordisa verrucosa (PS)
(1 sighting)



Trapania benni (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia catachroma (NS)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. (RL)
(1 sighting)



Unknown tritoniid (RL)
(1 sighting)



Unknown aeolid (AK)
(1 sighting)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation!

Bob Burn for his invaluable assistance with identification, choosing the Best Photo and most interesting find, and for imparting his knowledge and insights to help improve everyone's identification skills.

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the next Melbourne Sea Slug Census!

Remember, there are also events in other parts of the country – notification of these will be made through the network of Facebook and web sites. Sea Slug Census <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaslugcensus/>

Nicole Mertens (local organiser)
Victorian National Parks Association

Steve Smith & Matt Nimbs
National Marine Science Centre
Southern Cross University