

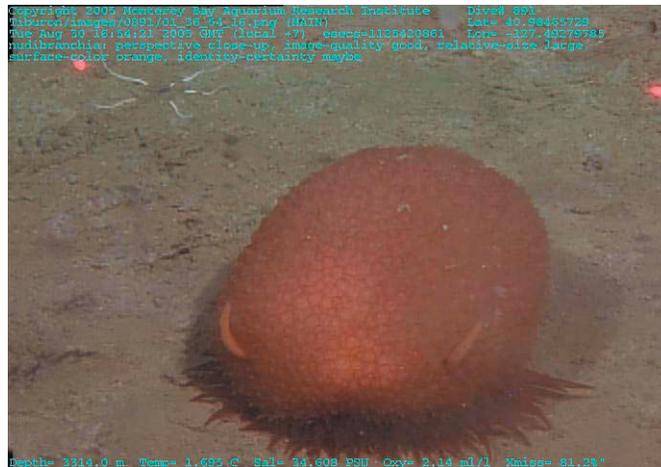
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
MARINE
INVERTEBRATE
TAXONOMISTS



January/February, 2006

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 5



Bathydoris aoica crawling over unknown anemone. 3310m. Laser spacing 30cm (photo copyright MBARI, used with permission).

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

13 FEBRUARY 2006

President Kelvin Barwick called the meeting to order by calling for nominations for SCAMIT officers. The current suite of officers was nominated and accepted. Although it is late, candidate statements and the ballot are included at the end of this newsletter. Please vote and return the ballots and feel free to add “write-in” candidates.

It was then time for Tony Phillips (CLAEMD) to start his polyclad presentation. He started by telling us to all go to the American Museum of Natural History’s website as it now has many of its publications (many dealing with polyclads) in pdf format and available on-line (see LITERATURE ON-LINE further on in this NL). The first thing Tony emphasized was that his presentation was based on qualitative characters. He did not have the expertise to do the required sagittal serial sectioning of the copulatory apparatus to make the exact determination of species. What Tony was trying to accomplish was to create a baseline of taxonomic names that SCAMIT could utilize until someone with the expertise

could review the animals that were part of this presentation and confirm their identities. Tony gave a very thorough and detailed powerpoint presentation which also included a large hand-out packet of species ID sheets, distribution data (courtesy of Dr. John Holleman), and a key to west coast polyclads (courtesy of Dr. John Holleman). His powerpoint presentation will be available as a download from the SCAMIT website after he has finished the final editing touches. The minutes below simply skim the surface of all the information that was made available at the meeting.

For this current project Tony followed the name usage of Dr. John Holleman’s unpublished, Key to the West Coast Polyclads of North America. Below are listed some important characters to note when trying to identify polyclads:

EYES**Tentacular**

Within the tentacles

In the body underneath the tentacles

No tentacles present but a coalescence of eyes are in the area where they would be located

Cerebral - between the tentacular eyes and closely associated with the brain

Marginal – along the edge of the body, can be either total or partial

Frontal – between the brain and the marginal eyes

Eyes absent - this can occasionally be the case, for example with the genus *Plehnia*

Upcoming Meetings

June 12 - Phyllodocidae with Leslie Harris at LACM

July 10 - Terebellidae (*may change to Capitellidae depending on visiting researcher schedule) at LACM

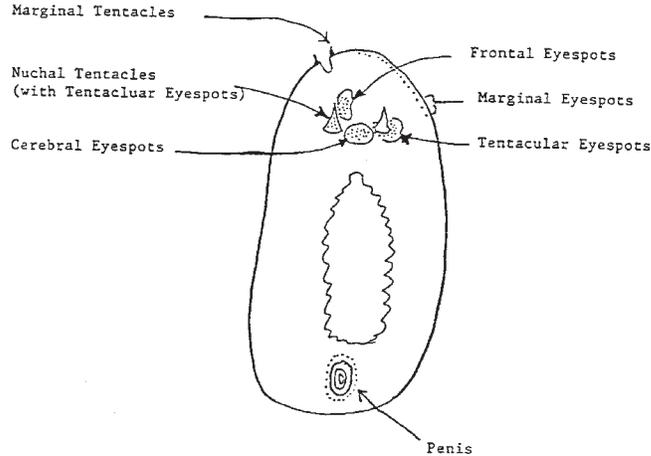
August 14 - ?Gnathis & Pinnixa with Lisa Haney at CSDLAC

September 11 - ?Oedicerotids with Dean Pasko and Ron Velarde at CSD

October 9 - ?Ecology Topics at SCCWRP

November 13 - ?Echinoidea with Rich Mooi; CSD





Generalized Polyclad - eye morphology; from: SCAMIT Newsletter Vol. 9 No. 9

TENTACLES - Nuchal or marginal

DORSAL PROCESSES - papillae

PHARYNX - Ruffled or tubular

With general morphological characters covered, we went to discussing various species. Tony had found *Pseudoallioplana californica*, from off Dana Point in shallow water. He had not had time to create a sheet for this animal yet, so he urged us to go the flatworms of the world website and look at the image there.

<http://www.rzuser.uni-heidelberg.de/~bu6/flatintr.htm>

Additionally, Tony has reviewed vouchers of what has been identified as *Spinicirrus* and he has concluded they are all Polycladida sp 27. *Spinicirrus* is a valid genus, we just aren't seeing it.

Enchiridium punctatum was also discussed. There is currently no sheet on this species, so its characters were described by Tony. It has a tubular pharynx; marginal eyes which completely encircle the body, and which are wide at the anterior margin and become a single row as you move towards the posterior; two groups of closely set cerebral eyes; an ivory white body with small black pigment spots. It is found from the intertidal to 3m.

We then proceeded to discuss specifics of each species in his hand-out and it would be too long and frustrating to repeat here as the images which were discussed are not available with this issue of the NL. As mentioned earlier, the powerpoint presentation will eventually be available on the SCAMIT website under the taxonomic tools section.

LITERATURE ON-LINE

Below is an email forwarded to the SCAMIT List-server by member Larry Lovell:

The American Museum of Natural History Library announces the availability of the full legacy of the museum's scientific publications. Both back issues and current-ongoing publications have been digitized and all publications are now available on the web at:



<http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace>

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD ANEMONES

John Ljubenkov is requesting specimens of *Edwardsia* sp A. He is also asking that we all look carefully at our *Scolanthus* sp A. If it looks like it might have a physa please pull it for John. There is some debate at the moment as to whether this is a strange preservation artifact or if there are two species (let's hope not).

APLACOPHORE GALORE

Kelvin Barwick has announced that his and Don Cadien's Aplacophore presentation is now available as a CD. It was mailed with the last newsletter, free of charge, to all hard copy SCAMIT members (a benefit of the more expensive membership). Electronic members can download it from the web or pay \$5 to have it mailed to them. Contact either Kelvin Barwick or Megan Lilly if you'd like to order a CD.

LYSIANASSOID AMPHIPODS FOR ED. 5

Over the history of the SCAMIT Taxonomic Listing editions, some changes have been avoided because it wasn't yet time to implement them. I am currently contemplating changes on the edge of that category, and would like to hear back from members how they feel about the issue. What I am considering is, finally, a subdivision of the lysianassoid amphipods. This is a large group, currently carried under the banner of Lysianassidae in Edition 4. For over 40 years workers have been dismantling this large and unwieldy family, and have produced a number of family level taxa to contain members of the traditional Lysianassidae *sensu lato*.

Other local treatments (i.e. John Chapman's upcoming amphipod portion of Light's Manual) will continue to utilize the traditional Lysianassidae *s.l.* arrangement, without reference to the additional families required under the Lysianassidae *s.s.* concept. The soon to be released American Fisheries Society list of Peracarids will include some, but not all, of the subdivisions of the family. In that list, for instance, both the pachynid group and the conicostomatid group are included in Lysianassidae. SCAMIT adoption of the modified nomenclature will create some uncertainty among local taxonomists as to where species should be allocated. This will exist regardless, as different authorities are in different stages of acceptance of the subdivision of lysianassoids (as mentioned above). Most of us use taxonomic hierarchy including the family level, in our record keeping, and this would require modification if we do adopt the restricted family name uses proposed. Of course, no agency is required to change their current listings to conform to SCAMIT usage unless by their own internal rules.

While the majority of lysianassoids do not occur in the NEP, we have several species which would be affected by adoption of the more restricted family concepts introduced to parse the lysianassoids. No comprehensive, cohesive, and persuasive cladistic analysis has yet been published, but the evidence is mounting that such restrictive family level groupings of lysianassoid taxa are not just taxonomic hot-air and splitting frenzy. There are now 15 named family level taxa with lysianassoid affinities, and at least 4 more unnamed but recognized clusters of genera which may be formalized at either sub-familial or familial level. All of these were at one time or another in, or closely connected to, the Lysianassidae. Some of our animals would fall into unnamed groups if the Lysianassidae were treated in a restricted sense. I see no inherent problem in treating these as interim family level placeholder names in the SCAMIT listing, as



long as we avoid use of quotation marks around the group.

For your consideration of the impact of the proposed adoption of the lysianassoid division I present below a list of Ed. 5 allocations for SCAMIT reported species. In Ed. 4 all were placed in Lysianassidae. To date only one additional member of the group has been added for Edition 5 by contributing agencies.

Acidostoma hancocki – conicostomatid group

Anonyx carinatus – Uristiidae

Anonyx lilljeborgi – Uristiidae

Aristias sp A – Aristiidae

Aruga holmesi – Lysianassidae, subfamily Lysianassinae

Aruga oculata – Lysianassidae, subfamily Lysianassinae

Dissiminassa dissimilis – Lysianassidae, subfamily Lysianassinae

Hippomedon columbianus – Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Hippomedon subrobustus - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Hippomedon tenax - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Hippomedon zetesimus - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Hippomedon sp A - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Lepidepecreum garthi - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Lepidepecreum gurjanovae - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Lepidepecreum serraculum - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Ocosingo borlus – conicostomatid group

Opisa tridentata – Opisidae

Orchomene anaquelus - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Orchomene decipiens - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Orchomene pacificus - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Orchomene pinguis - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Pachynus barnardi – Pachynidae

Prachnella lodo – Pachynidae

Rimakoroga rima - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Schisturella cocula - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae



Schisturella dorotheae - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Schisturella tracalero - Lysianassidae, subfamily Tryphosinae

Socarnes hartmani – Lysianassidae, subfamily Lysianassinae

Socarnoides illudens – conicostomatid group

Uristes entalladurus – Uristidae

The nomenclatural actions which resulted in the creation of additional Family level or group taxa from the Lysianassidae *s.l.*, took place in the publications below (only those which apply to locally reported species are listed, see Don Cadien for a more complete list of world-wide changes):

Aristiidae – Lowry & Stoddart, 1997

conicostomatid group – Lowry & Stoddart, 1983

Lysianassidae s.s. – Lowry & Stoddart, 1997

Lysianassinae – Lowry & Stoddart, 1997

Tryphosinae – Lowry & Stoddart, 1997

Opisidae – Lowry & Stoddart, 1995

Pachynidae – not yet identified by me. Family level utilized by Myers, McGrath, & King in their treatment of amphipods of European seas on line at www.amphipoda.com. Composition of the pachynid group defined by Lowry, 1984.

Uristidae – Hurley, 1963

We have consistently avoided usage of sub-familial designations in the SCAMIT list, and there is no compelling reason to change that policy to reflect the subdivision of the Lysianassidae *s.s.* into two subfamilies in Ed. 5 or in other future editions. The divisions are presented for information only.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The AMS/WSM conferences will be held in Seattle Washington this year from 29 July to 3 August and will be hosted by the University of Washington. For more information, go to:

<http://www.malacological.org>

The 2007 International Polychaete Conference will be in the United States next year. It will be held at the University of Maine from 12-18 August. Please visit their website at:

<http://server.dmc.maine.edu/worms.html>

SCUM X

The X annual meeting of SCUM (Southern California Unified Malacologists – probably the only group with an acronym more pejorative than SCAMIT) took place at the Santa Barbara



Museum of Natural History on 21 January 2006, with Dr. Dan Geiger hosting. These annual meetings are designed to draw together people working on many aspects of mollusks. Workers with fossil material as well as those studying living material from freshwater, land, and sea, meet to exchange views, support one another, and complain about the state of funding for research in the natural sciences. We also manage to get in a lunch. A number of SCAMIT members were in attendance, including Curtis Cash, Tony Phillips, John Ljubenkov, Jay Shrake, Ron Velarde, and Don Cadien (others might have been missed, sorry). I carpooled with Jay Shrake, who had not attended previously and enjoyed it greatly. I got us there late, but just in time for a coffee break which we used to greet many colleagues. After the break I gave a presentation on the Supplement to SCAMIT Vol. 22 – Aplacophore mollusks of the 2003 Regional Monitoring Survey. I demonstrated some of what was on the disk, and discussed the project, inviting the audience to download it if they found interest in the subject. Interest was manifested by a number of the participants who seemed to feel that any effort on this under-examined group was worth a look.

Other presentations were varied and consisted of such topics as the zoogeography of eastern Pacific and Caribbean geminates in light of fossil evidence from Southern California; searching out a supposedly extinct land snail in Israel; chitons; and even deep-water sea cucumbers. Paul Scott also gave us an update on the progress of the next bivalve book covering the Panamic and complementary to *Bivalve Shells of Western North America*. All seems on schedule for publication in the not too distant future, but Paul was too savvy to say just when. There have been some changes made, including the use of color in the plates for the new book, and a slightly modified display format for the photos. While there is abundant material from shallow water available, Paul made a plea for material from the deeper waters of the Panamic region. Anyone with specimens, or ideas on where some might be found should contact Paul at: pvscott@sbnature2.org

As usual the meeting served as a platform for specimen exchange. I brought specimens of ethanol preserved *Parvilucina tenuisculpta* to Paul for DNA analysis. Bill Power had pulled them from an extra sample taken during our last sampling. Apparently DNA in this animal is particularly fragile, degrading after just a brief period in ethanol. Previous attempts had proven unsuccessful, so we are trying again. Linda Kuhnz (MBARI) would have been in attendance if not at sea, but sent down the “basketball specimen” anyway. This is quite a large, soft bodied organism whose photo was circulated among a few people as the presumptive first live photograph of the deep sea slug *Bathydoris aoica* (see cover photo). I argued against this based on the photograph. Had the specimen not been collected the question might have been moot, but amazingly it was collected and returned to MBARI. Examination of the specimen by Linda confirmed that it was indeed a mollusk, and did seem to correspond to *Bathydoris* (now confirmed as *B. aoica*). Tissue has been collected for molecular analysis, but the results are not yet in. The specimen came to Dr. Angel Valdes of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County who will report on it at some point. It is hard to get a good look at a live *Bathydoris* as they all exist in relatively deep water. The specimen discussed here came from 3310m. Jay and I had to leave by 2 pm, so we undoubtedly missed some interesting presentations and discussions.

It was agreed at the meeting that the next pond on which SCUM will accumulate will be located at the San Diego Natural History Museum in January 2007. We'll notify you of the date when it is announced. See you there.

DON CADIEEN — CSDLAC



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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
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 under Dr. Eric Hochberg, Paul Valentich Scott, and Henry Chaney. 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.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: 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)830-2400x5605	cbrantley@lacs.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 every two months 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

BALLOT FOR SCAMIT OFFICERS 2006-2007

Vote for one (1) nominee for each office. Please mail or return the completed ballot to Leslie Harris by June 12th 2006. You may return it to the Secretary or other attending officers at the June meeting. The address to mail it to is:

Attn: Leslie Harris
Worm Lab
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
900 Exposition Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90007

President – The president presides at all meetings and represents SCAMIT in external business affairs.

_____ Kelvin Barwick
_____ Write in: _____

Vice-President – The Vice-President chairs ad hoc committees, supervises the specimen exchange, tabulates election ballots, and fills in for the President as necessary.

_____ Leslie Harris
_____ Write in: _____

Secretary – The Secretary keeps minutes of the meetings, is responsible for the newsletter, and preparation of the ballots.

_____ Megan Lilly
_____ Write in: _____

Treasurer – The Treasurer collects dues, makes disbursements, keeps financial records, and makes an annual statement of the financial status of SCAMIT.

_____ Cheryl Brantley
_____ Write in: _____

2006-2007 SCAMIT Meeting Topics – Please suggest any topics you deem worthy of a SCAMIT meeting.

