

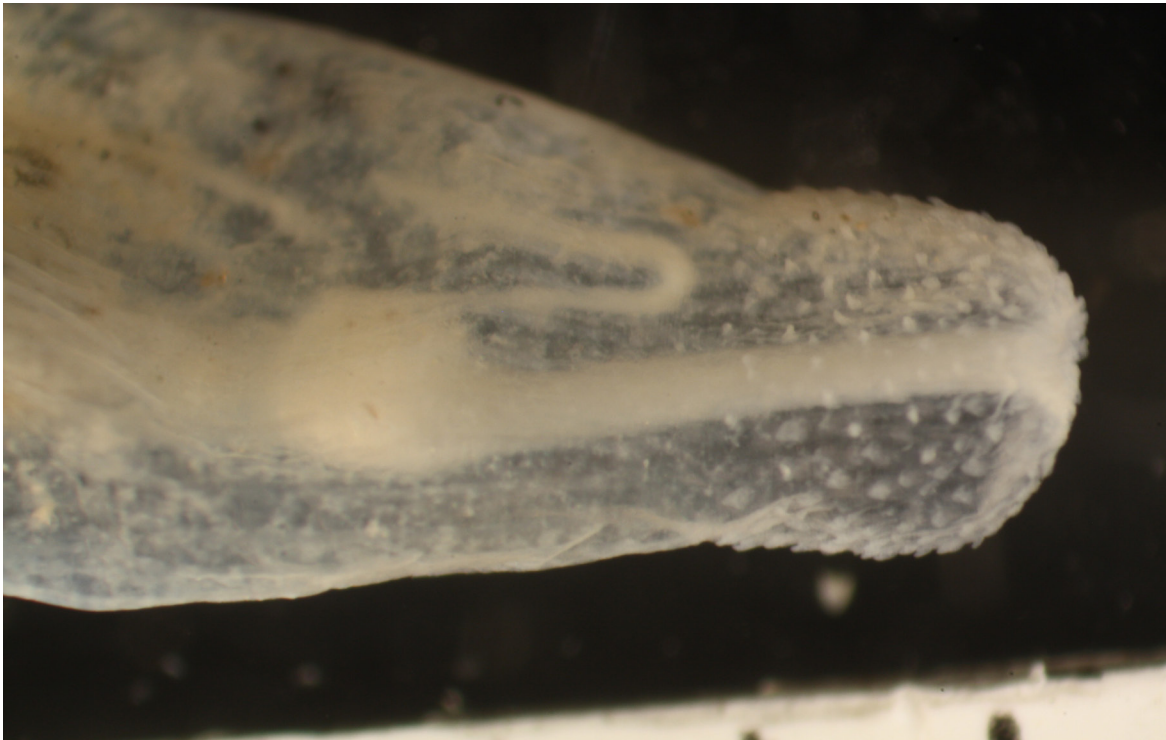
**S**OUTHERN  
**C**ALIFORNIA  
**A**SSOCIATION OF  
**M**ARINE  
**I**NVERTEBRATE  
**T**AXONOMISTS



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*Siphonosoma ingens*, anterior end showing introvert hooks. *Photo by M. Lilly.*

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

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**14 NOVEMBER 2014, TAXONOMIC TOOLBOX, SIPUNCULIDA, SCCWRP****[No Meeting Held in December 2014]**

**Attendees:** Carol Paquette (MBC); Chase McDonald, Don Cadien, Terra Petry, Larry Lovell (LACSD); Greg Lyon, Erin Oderlin (CLA-EMD); Robin Gartman, Megan Lilly, Wendy Enright (CSD); Tony Phillips, Dean Pasko (DCE); Dot Norris (SFPUC-remotely).

**Business:**

Larry started by introducing the first meeting that will look at how to improve and update the Taxonomic Toolbox. Larry's goals for the meeting are to: (1) review the listed voucher sheets, update names as appropriate, create list of required updates, and eliminate duplicates files; (2) collect or recognize the other resource files from attending members that are not already in the tool box; (3) discuss and review images for addition to the toolbox "Photos" tab; and (4) develop a format for running these meetings.

He then reminded everyone of the need to nominate Officers. Tony nominated all existing officers. Terra and Chase were recommended for the Treasurer position, but were reluctant to take up the mantel. The nominations will remain open for another couple of months since the ballots are not out until March 2015. Leslie will accept nominations through February.

He also mentioned that May 2015 will be membership month and SCAMIT will be offering PayPal as an option for paying dues.

Various members discussed some of the upcoming conferences, including the International Parasite Conference which will be held at the Cabrillo Marine Museum in San Pedro in 2015.

**Toolbox Discussion**

Following our brief business interlude, we moved on to discussing the Toolbox, specifically the Sipuncula. Larry had spent time culling through the toolbox and comparing files in the toolbox to the "Historic Toolbox" files to simplify this process. He started with showing the listing of voucher sheets and files that are duplicates, as well as the Key to the Sipunculida by B. Thomspson (1986). For example there are two files that include Bruce's key that have different contents. Tony also noted that all the species descriptions were missing from both files. These are the types of issues we hope to resolve and rectify by the end of the session!

Discussion of the key lead to a revisit of the Ed 9 listing. There was comment that the list included *Aspidosiphon*, a coral-inhabiting species, as well as *Golfingia* sp 1. LACSD said that they had collected *Golfingia* sp 1 some time ago, but no official voucher sheet exists. Terra volunteered to dig up the record and hopefully the voucher specimen so that some images could be made. Don volunteered to review the record of *Aspidosiphon*, which he believed came from ISS survey samples identified by John Ljubenkov.

*Apionosoma trichocephala* is also listed on Ed 9, but no one could remember reporting it from any of the agencies' surveys. Tony had some material from Bruce Thomposon dealing with members of the genus as well as some other material of interest that came from the early SCCWRP Taxonomic Standardization Meetings in 1986.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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



When we reviewed the *Apionsoma ingens* voucher sheet, we found two forms: one clean and one with notes added. This led to discussion about whether the notes added value and which sheet to be retained. The group decided to keep only one sheet, and maintain the modified sheet if it supplies supplemental information of value to the discrimination of the taxa in question. The modified sheet should include a “modified by” line and/or “reviewed by” line.

This, of course, lead to additional discussion about how to comment on various files. Comments can be added to the PDF files and saved and printed, as long as the “Print notes and comment” button is selected in the Adobe Acrobat Preferences window. Everyone who uses the PDF file has to update their preferences to print the comments and notes. Don suggested that we add a sticky note to bottom of the file indicating that the sheet was reviewed and accepted on this date, or add the reviewed and accepted date in the file name (DD-MM-YYYY).

Wendy tested the comment method with the *Phascolion* voucher sheet that currently uses the older *Golfingia* name.

Robin commented that the toolbox could use a Find/Search tool. To which Larry reminded us all that the toolbox tool is available as a link directly from the Taxonomic Database tool. Although a link to the Database tool was not available via the SCAMIT website, Larry reiterated that he had distributed the link via the General List Server, and that the webmaster is currently working to add a link to the website.

We then moved on to the voucher sheets for *Nephasoma diaphanes*, one of which contained a note about the retractor muscle (see file name with “..vcher McNamara.pdf”).

Next was the file(s) containing the sipunculid key, which of course contains a lot of names that need to be updated. Greg added some of the missing pages, such as a missing general anatomy figure, and added a comment to the pdf file that the names used in the key need to be updated to the current SCAMIT species list.

We breezed through the following voucher sheets before lunch: *Siphonsoma ingens*, *Apionsoma* sp SD1, *Phascolion* sp A, and *Thysanocardia nigra*.

After going through existing files, Larry reviewed the taxonomic toolbox tool and demonstrated the map and links to the taxonomic toolbox voucher sheets. There was some discussion about where the images would be housed and how they are to be accessed. A brief discussion of the preferred image metadata ensued and we decided that the files should include (in the name or in the file itself) the: who, where, affiliation, taxonomist, and scale is preferable. At minimum station, depth, agency should be included. However, if an image exists that demonstrates a specific character state or is an excellent representation of the whole organism but doesn't include this metadata, a decision about whether or not to post it can be decided by the members of the meeting dealing with that particular taxa.

After lunch we identified various content that could be added. This included:

- Megan's table, 1996, with modification by Nick to include pictures. Dean suggested that he be able to add the provisional information to a new file.
- Tony's material from Bruce Thompson.



- Dean's Sipuncula sp SD1 from Bight'98. Megan said that there may have already been a Sipuncula sp SD1, and thus Dean's 1998 species should be listed as SD2. Dean needs to create a voucher sheet and list it as Sipuncula sp A SCAMIT.

Members in attendance then showed various images that might be added to the Photos section. Megan showed some of her images of *Thysanocardia nigra*, as well as *Siphosoma ingens*. The later was an excellent photo taken by Wendy and showed a variety of characters of *S. ingens* such as the muscle bands and nerve cord, but did not contain the station information. Megan and Wendy decided that they would collect this information since the image was from a vouchered specimen and add it to the file. She also showed the *Nephasoma* sp SD1 voucher sheet, which in this case was more of an ID sheet in that it listed the descriptive characters and images; but was without the differential diagnosis (i.e., characters distinguishing it from *N. pellucida*). Next were her images of *Phascolosoma* FID from Bight'08. As Megan discussed the specimen and its characters, Dean noted that we need to compare it to Sipuncula sp SD1 to see if they are the same. The only difference appears to be the absence of microvilli on the retractor muscle of Megan's *Phascolosoma* specimen, so perhaps one or the other had mis-interpreted a character state.

This led to some discussion about the Photos tab, and how it is to be used. After some debate we decided that one need not create photos/images for the purpose of populating the Photo tab if a voucher sheet already has images. The idea was that the Photo tab would be a supplement to voucher sheets for which images do not exist. We must keep in mind the mission of the site -- to facilitate taxonomy and identification – and how the images can assist SCAMIT members, and those also interested in the identification of species, in this process.

Chase and Terra then showed some images of *Thysanocardia*, *Phascolion*, *Apionsoma*, and *Siphonosoma*.

Tony showed his images of *T. nigra*, and *Siphonsoma*.

At the conclusion of the image review we discussed the next group to consider, and decided upon Ascidiarians. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28th, 2015 at SCCWRP. We also developed a list of Action Items:

- Dean – review his Sipuncula sp SD1, update table of Sipuncula characters
- Terra – investigate *Nephasoma* sp LA1 and *Golfingia* sp 1 specimen and take photos as possible
- Megan – Check on her *Phascolosoma* sp FID and modify images with Wendy
- Larry/LACSD – Scan Tony's notebook for missing pages to Bruce's presentation; begin discussion with Dean Pencheff on how to accommodate images and link them to the database
- Don – look at *Aspidosiphon*
- Tony – take images of the *Aspidosiphon* specimen that he has from the ISS work
- Wendy – review the Ascidian material on the toolbox prior to the next meeting

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Thompson, B. 1985. A preliminary, Artificial Key to the Sipunculans of Southern California. Sipunculida. In Allan Hancock Technical Report 3: Southern California Marine Invertebrates.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org)

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