

Melbourne Sea Slug Census VI

17-20 January 2020

Thanks to everyone who participated in the January 2020 Melbourne Sea Slug Census. Despite some challenging conditions along our coasts more than 100 people were out and about searching for slugs on all sides of Port Philip Bay, Westernport and beyond. In total we received images from 18 different individuals or teams. The list of sites examined included: Beaumaris, Blairgowrie, Boarfish Reef, Coral Cove (Mornington), Crib Point, Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary, Flinders, Kilarney Beach, Peasoup, Point Lonsdale, Rickett's Point Marine Sanctuary, Sorrento, St Leonard's and the Pillars. Together, we found a total of **72 species** of sea slug, a spectacular effort.

And now to the results you've all been waiting for ...

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count on the day) – **Chris Hurwood**, who at 35 species just narrowly out-spotted **Rebecca Lloyd** with 33!



BEST PHOTO (Awarded by Bob Burn): Ian Scholey - *Verconia verconis*. Bob loved how this fantastic shot captured the animal's amazing camouflage abilities, as you can clearly see how it mimics not only the colour and shape of its food source (*Darwinella rosea*, also featuring here) but the texture as well.

Bob's second pick went to **Nick Shaw's *Roburnella wilsoni*** (page 6 of this report)- a great photo of this sacoglossan showing its delicate shell and other features in fine detail.



MOST INTERESTING SPECIES (Awarded by Bob Burn): Nick Shaw – *Aeolid sp.* This specimen was so striking in how it was devoid of any identifying colours, marks or features, and may well be a new species. Bob was also impressed with Nick's photo of *Dendronotus sp. RB2*- a rarely spotted slug, but one that already took out this category in October 2018's Census!

Honorable mention: Rebecca Lloyd – *Eubranchus sp.* (page 7). Again not one that our experts think they've seen yet. Well done Rebecca and Nick.

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:

Chris Forbes (CF), Chris Hurwood (CH), Corinne and Ken Telford (CKT), Donna Foster (DF), Ian Scholey (IS), Jack Breedon (JB), Jak Grimm (JG), Karen Barwise (KB), Kade Mills (KM), Mick Morley (MM), Milan Jelenko (MJ), Nicole Mertens (NM), Nick Shaw (NS), Rachel Price and Michael McCallum (RPMM), Rebecca Lloyd (RL), Sally Watson (SW), Sue Brabender (SB), Stephen Goodall (SG)



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (IS)
(10 sightings)



Goniobranchus tinctorius (CH)
(6 sightings)



Phyllodesmium serratum (RL)
(5 sightings)



Tambja verconis (RL)
(5 sightings)



Verconia haliclona (IS)
(5 sightings)



Elysia coodgensis (KR)
(4 sightings)



Polycera hedgpethi (IS)
(4 sightings)



Aplysia cf. parvula (KM)
(3 sightings)



Coryphellina sp. RB2 (IS)
(3 sightings)



Dendrodoris arborescens (RL)
(3 sightings)



Discodoris paroa (CH)
(3 sightings)



Doriopsilla carneola
(3 sightings)



Lamellaria australis (CH)
(3 sightings)



Pleurobranchus hilli (RL)
(3 sightings)



Sclerodoris sp. RB1 (SG)
(3 sightings)



Trapania brunnea (RL)
(3 sightings)



Verconia verconis (CH)
(3 sightings)



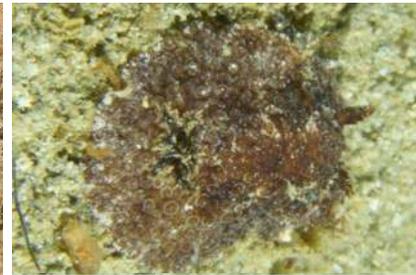
Aplysia sowerbyi (CH)
(2 sightings)



Austreaolis ornata (RL)
(2 sightings)



Berthellina citrina (RL)
(2 sightings)



Carminodoris nodulosa (SG)
(2 sightings)



Doris cameroni (JB)
(2 sightings)



Favorinus sp. RB1 (CH)
(2 sightings)



Facelina newcombi (RL)
(2 sightings)



Janolus sp. (RL)
(2 sightings)



Papawera maugeansis (NM)
(2 sightings)



Tubulophilinopsis lineolata (RL)
(2 sightings)



Polycera cf. *jankjukia* (RL)
(2 sightings)



Tambja dracomus (CH)
(2 sightings)



Thordisa verrucosa (CH)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia catachroma (NS)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia sp. RB2 (NS)
(2 sightings)



Tritonia sp. RB3 (IS)
(2 sightings)



Cerberilla incola (photo: John Olden, March 2020)
(1 sighting)



Cerberilla sp. RB1 (CH)
(1 sighting)



Chromodoris alternata (CH)
(1 sighting)



Dendronotus sp. RB2 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Doris cf. *cameroni* (RL)
(1 sighting)



Doto pita (CH)
(1 sighting)



Ercolania boodlea (NM)
(1 sighting)



Eubranthus sp. RB11 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Facelina hartleyi (NS)
(1 sighting)



Facelina sp. RB3 (CH)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus epicurius (CH)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus sp. (SW)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoris meracula (NS)
(1 sighting)



Hermaea sp. RB1 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Janolus hyalinus (JB)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. RB2 (JB)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. RB6 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Madrella sanguinea (CH)
(1 sighting)



Madrella sp. RB1 (RPM)
(1 sighting)



Mexichromis macropus (KB)
(1 sighting)



Palliola cooki (NS)
(1 sighting)



Polycera parvula (JB)
(1 sighting)



Polycera sp. RB1 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Roburnella wilsoni (NS)
(1 sighting)



Rostanga calumus (JB)
(1 sighting)



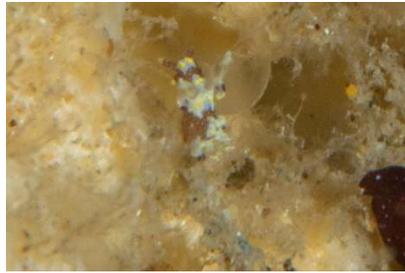
Rostanga crawfordi (SG)
(1 sighting)



Sclerodoris tarka (NS)
(1 sighting)



Siphopteron sp. RB1 (SW)
(1 sighting)



Trapania benni (CH)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. RB5 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. RB14 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Tularia bractea (CH)
(1 sighting)



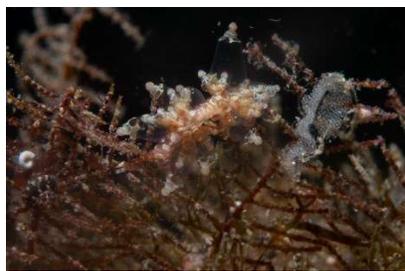
Aeolid sp. (NS)
(1 sighting)



Doto pita or *Eubranchus* sp. (RL)
(1 sighting)



Eubranchus sp. (RL)
(1 sighting)



Eurbranchus cf. *mandapamensis*
(CH)
(1 sighting)



Favorinus sp. (CH)
(1 sighting)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation!

Bob Burn for his invaluable assistance with identification and for choosing the Best Photo and most interesting find.

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 and Matt Nimbs
National Marine Science Centre
Southern Cross University