

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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Subscription: c/o Steven J. Long; 20220 21st NW, Shoreline, WA 98177; 206-618-2272; 1-800-793-6188; e-mail <miranda@oz.net>. Individual subscriptions \$15.00 (US) per volume. Institutional subscriptions are \$30.00 US per year anywhere. Outside US add \$5.00 per year for postage. The Opisthobranch Web Site is: <<http://oo.net/~miranda>> and has the current issue on the Web plus a huge amount of opisthobranch reference material which is updated frequently. Please send information to the editor. Range extensions & other collecting notes are welcome as are comments and questions on most subjects relating to opisthobranchs. I would really appreciate a quick e-mail from each of you who is using the ON on the net so I know who reads it.

Editor's Notes:

I have split the large bibliography from 2 parts to 4 parts on the Internet so that more of you can download it more easily. I will add to each section as I get time. I want to enter species names so that they are also searchable but that will take me a huge amount of time. If any of you has computer lists of species, subjects, or bibliography please consider sending them to me to be incorporated into the basic lists. It will save thousands of person-hours.

Please do send updates for addresses and any corrections you find. These lists are only as accurate as you help me make them. Please send me short biographical notes on what each of you is doing now.

I have changed the format and type style of this issue. The result is about 50% more information in the same number of pages. As most of you know, I can airmail 2 sheets at the minimum rate and that is the object. If you want larger type, most of you can view on the internet and simply use this for historical but I am interested in comments either way.

I know this is likely to breed hate and discontent but I am going to include Lamellarians and Pyramidellids in the references here. Gary McDonald is doing a great job with the Nudibranchia if you want to avoid shells completely.

Personal Notes:

Pat LaFollette (See address below): I ran across your site on the web and thought I'd say hello. It's been a long time. I've been back in California (from Belize) for almost two years now and am working in electronic publishing (SGML to CD-ROM). Some of the work is biological, but none malacological (so far). For example, I've recently worked on Flora of North America and USNM Caribbean Coral reefs.

When I started off this brouse, I was looking for a copy of Sherborn's "Index Animalium" for sale. So far have found only section 1 (1758-1800). Any ideas where to look?

Dr. Kikutaro Baba has recently subscribed to the ON and is still at: Shigigaoka 1-11-12, Sango-cho, Ikoma-gun, Nara-ken, Japan 636.. Best wishes to you!

From Wes Farmer <wmfarmer@adnc.com>: During 12-15 April, 1996 Jim R. Lance and myself journeyed to Bahia de San Quintin to find Vaucheria a green algae. We found 11 species of opisthobranchs, the list of which J.R.L. has. A new aelidoform sacco was discovered. My goal was to make a 365 degree photograph from atop a cinder cone of the bay. Both our goals were accomplished on this four day field trip.

From Kerry Clark: I've been fairly inactive on slugs lately, due to work on my invertebrate zoology CD-ROM "Metazoa," which I've now converted to run under Windows 3.1; this has

been a major undertaking leaving little time for fieldwork. It does contain a bunch of slug stuff, though, and I'm planning to post part of it on the web at the address "<http://users.aol.kbclark/ascos.html>" -- not much there at present, as I'm waiting for Oracle to deliver software that should automate conversion from the CD-ROM material.

I'll also be representing opisthobranch molluscs at a workshop on Endangerment and Extinction in the Sea in DC in March, sponsored by the Center for Marine Conservation. My major efforts lately are mostly on paper, and consider opisthobranchs as potential models for rare marine invertebrates in general, the advantage being that opisthobranchs are more readily locatable than most RML's.

Mike Miller was in Philippines from 11 April to 30 April. Hope hear from him when he returns.

From Bob Bolland: I've been in Asia, mostly on Okinawa, with U Maryland/Asian Division now for over 20 years. I teach biology with the university and I dive a great deal; Okinawa is perhaps one of the best kept diving secrets in Asia, which probably explains my long expatriate tenure here. I dive deep and long and I'm very interested in U/W photography. The Opisthobranchs have been the center of my interest for quite a few years now -- lots of 'branches here and I've got a working list of ca. 50 families, 120 genera, and 230 species (not counting many unidentified individuals), the majority of which have been tentatively ID'ed by Terry [Gosliner] at CAS.

From Jongrak Lee: It is my pleasure to send you E-mail. I am a postgraduate student in Sung Kyun-Kwan University who is majored in zoology, especially taxonomy of opisthobranchs in Korean waters. Actually, this is my 3rd time to try to get in touch with you (my first attempt was in 1994).

From Brenda Deakin: Hi! I guess I can tell you a little about myself. I have a couple of undergrad degrees in science - one in biochemistry, the other in biology. I've just finished a Masters in Counselling. A big departure from the sciences! I just got tired of being a tech. The study of invertebrates is a passion for me - nudibranchs, cnidarians, sponges etc. and I love plankton! I fell in love with marine bio when I was a child and living in Florida for a couple of years. We then moved back to Canada and I took up scuba diving 17 years ago, here in B.C. I moved here in 1978 from Ontario. So, I love to dive, am an ecologist etc.

I suppose my favorite life forms of the ocean are opisthobranchs. The diving in the Northwest is just so beautiful - I've never dove anywhere warm! Maybe someday! I do a lot of diving in Barclay Sound - always with Rendezvous Dive Ventures (Dave and Renate are good friends of mine). I'll hopefully be going out there from July 22-26/96.

From Scott Johnson: After spending several years working as a biologist in Hawaii and on Enewetak Atoll (specializing in nudibranch mollusks), I determined that the only way to successfully remain in a climate warm enough for my very thin blood was to change professions. My wife Jeanette and I live and work on Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, where we spend as much time in the water as our daytime jobs allow. Jeanette maintains and stocks our half dozen aquaria and I spend most of my time with photography, having switched from stills to primarily video over the past year. The u/w video is great fun and mostly gives terrific results, but I admit that the images are somewhat

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disappointing for the smaller subjects -- nudibranchs and small shells -- that I find most interesting; stills are sharper and have more vivid color.

Our biggest on-going project is the development of a Kwajalein marine mollusks checklist that includes atoll location and habitat information. Currently, we have about 1650 species listed, although many of those, particularly the micros, remain unidentified. We also have bags and bags of micros sorted from sediment samples that we haven't had time to try to identify or incorporate into the system.

Publication Notes:

Coral Reef Animals of the Indo-Pacific. Branchers Terry Gosliner, Dave Behrens and Gary Williams have teamed together, broadened their coverage and produced a spectacular field guide to the Coral Reef Invertebrates of the Indo-Pacific. While the guide includes 1500 color photographs of 1103 species from sponges to tunicates, as you might guess, opisthobranchs were not left out. Exactly 1/10th of the book or 110 species of opisthobranchs are included. In a format similar to Behrens' branches of the Pacific Coast and Gosliner's branches of South Africa, each species description covers identification, taxonomic issues, size, natural history, and geographic range. Selecting from the photo collections of 50 of the World's leading underwater photographers, this book truly presents the best color images depicting necessary diagnostic features for accurate identification. The book is available through Sea Challengers, 4 Sommerset Rise, Monterey, CA 93940-4112. Their phone: 408-373-6306, FAX 408-373-4566. Price: \$45.00, Shipping: \$4.25, California residents add 7.25% sales tax.

The Strandloper (South Africa) will be exchanging with the ON so I will keep up with opisthobranch material. For information, contact Mike Cortie (address below).

Current Events:

Fifth International Symposium on Littorinid Biology, Cork, Ireland, 7-13 September, 1996. This is the latest in a series of symposia on this extensively-studied group of gastropods. Contributions are invited on all aspects of the biology of littorinids and other intertidal gastropods of similar habitat. So far the organizers have a preliminary list of 46 papers and 11 posters. In addition, there will be a workshop on 'The importance of marine gastropods for aquaculture'. Please contact the organizers, Dr. Ruth O'Riordan and Dr. Gavin Burnell, Dept. of Zoology, University College Cork, Lee Maltings, Prospect Row, Cork City, Ireland. Fax +353 21 277922. Tel. +353 21 904050.

The Curatorial and Research Division of Delaware Museum of Natural History announces the availability of two graduate student scholarships in support of systematic research in Malacology or Ornithology. Each \$500 award will be used to defray travel expenses incurred by the student in visiting DMNH to study our world-class systematic collections and library. Specific questions about the collections should be addressed to Dr. Paula M. Mikkelsen, Curator (Malacology) or Mr. Gene K. Hess, Collection Manager (Ornithology). Address applications to: Dr. Paula M. Mikkelsen, Head, Curatorial & Research Division, Delaware Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 3937, Wilmington, DE

19807-0937, Tel. (302) 658-9111, FAX (302) 658-2610, email paulam@ssnet.com.

IV International Congress for Medical and Applied Malacology, 7th to 11th October, 1996, Santiago Chile. Cecilia Osorio R., Chairman, F. Ciencias Hidrobiolog, e-mail <cosorio@abello.dic.uchile.cl>.

World Congress of Malacology, Washington, DC, 25-31 July, 1998. Contact Dr. Rudiger Bieler, e-mail <bieler@fmnh.org>.

Information Exchange:

Color Preservation. I have also been frustrated by the loss of colour in nudibranchs after preservation in formalin or alcohol. Over the years I have tried various other solutions including propylene phenoxitol (as described in G. Owen & H.F. Steedman, 'Preservation of animal tissues, with a note on staining solutions', Q. J. Microsc. Sci., vol. 97, Sept. 1956, pp.319-321) and the antioxidant Ionol C.P. (as described in G.A. Robilliard, 'A method of color preservation in opisthobranch mollusks', Veliger, vol.11, no.2, 1969, pp.289-291). The most promising solution, however, that I've found is one using 1.25% glutaraldehyde and 0.5% paraformaldehyde in sea water. I discovered this when preserving some *Murphydoris* in alcohol with Ionol. These specimens, after two months, are now almost white whilst the specimens preserved in the glutaraldehyde have maintained their red colour and have only slightly faded. Other specimens preserved in the glutaraldehyde were *Discodoris nigra*, a yellow *Platydoris*, and *Phidiana indica*. All have maintained their colour with only slight fading and, in the case of the *Phidiana indica*, the red markings on the head are still clearly visible as well as the colour on the cerata. Eventually the colours will fade but this is the best solution I've found so far. -- Julie Marshall.

The Vita Marina and Spirula WWW-page contains a list of conventions, club meetings, shell shows, etc. <http://www.pi.net/~spirula>.

Antonio Murias Santos is working on molluscan taxonomic lists and is getting to opisthobranchs. Contact him at e-mail <amsantos@fc1.fc.up.pt>.

I am interested in searching for intertidal opisthobranchs around the Hobart (Tasmania) area during the first week in December. Can anyone help me with information concerning tides, collection regulations and good areas to visit? -- Gilliane Brodie, e-mail <Gilliane.Brodie@jcu.edu.au>.

From Ernesto Quintero: Thanks so much to everybody that replied to my inquiry on nudibranchs from the Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions. In the last three years, it has become evident that some bioactive metabolites (i.e. toxins and antibiotics) found in sponges and nudibranchs are produced by marine bacteria, tetrodotoxins, saxitoxins, surugatoxins, and a number of antibiotics among them. These metabolites appear to be transferred through several trophic levels with very little alterations to their chemical structures, although there is some evidence indicating that new hosts may alter the molecules, sometimes increasing their toxicity. Why do bacteria produce these chemicals to begin with? Maybe it is their contribution to their invertebrate hosts in a symbiotic relationship. Antibiotics may prevent the surface of sponges becoming overgrown with

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harmful bacteria; toxins and foul-tasting chemicals prevent predation. Some nudibranchs appear to be cashing in on this situation, by eating the sponges (to cite only one example), they get nourishment and the chemical defenses of their prey.

Mollia - a Web Site of Information for Malacologists. Mollia is for logistic information about malacology - a resource for information on publications, collections, meetings, applications and data available by the internet. Mollia is the WWW applet of MOLLUSCA and provides access to the MOLLUSCA listserver archives, Unitas Malacologica Newsletters, and direct links to other molluscan information sites via these documents. Mollia is located at <http://ucmp1.Berkeley.Edu/mologis/mollia.html> - D.R. Lindberg

There is a collection program having a relational database for Molluscs. It is called ELEDON. Contact G. Thomas Watters, Aquatic Ecology Laboratory & Museum of Biological Diversity, Ohio State University, 1314 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, OH 43212-1394. e-mail <gwatters@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu>, phone 614-292-6170, Fax 614-292-0181.

It would be very useful if someone that has some specimens of the notaspidean opisthobranch *Pleurobranchus areolatus* from the Caribbean Sea could send them to me. If that person has also slides, drawings or other kind of data, these are also welcomed. -- Dr. Juan Lucas Cervera

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