

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

My apologies to Mr. Iwao Hamatani for misspelling his name in the July issue of the ON. I also missed second authors on some citations. Corrections have been made to the main files.

The search engine is up on my web site. Right now you can search on a word or series of words up to 30 characters long. You can use any number of periods "." as wild cards. You can also enter two or three words with a vertical bar "|" between each and the search will treat the bar as an "or". The search will return each citation containing the requested character string. It is very quick, going through over 8,800 citations.

Reader Forum is also a part of the Opisthobranch Site now. You may enter comments or questions directly and they are on the site immediately. You may either enter corrections and additions to the various lists into this area or send me e-mail or snail-mail or FAX. I far prefer the e-mail as I can cut and paste into the newsletter or bibliography without introducing errors.

It takes almost no time to send an e-mail or enter into the Reader Forum. If you are in the U.S. or Canada, give me a call on my toll free 1-800-793-6188. Any time between about 7am & 11pm Pacific Time is fine.

In any case, I need all of the reprints I can get with any opisthobranchs included. I am going through them and adding species names in square brackets at the end of the bibliographic references. This will greatly enhance the usefulness of the search engine. The biblio is actually faster than my old card file and a lot neater.

My project for the next few years is to standardize all of the bibliography so that they will sort in correct order and print out as completely usable references. I have just figured out how to add many of the diacritical marks so I will have to put them back in after losing them on the original setup.

PERSONAL NOTES:

From Patty Jansen: I am working on a project similar to that on New South Wales shells but for the shells of northern Queensland (which falls well within the tropical Indo-Pacific region). There seems to be a lack of information on shelled opisthobranchs, which are plentiful in shell grit on beaches around here. I am separately looking for some material to help me identify the masses of shelled opisthobranchs that I have collected over the past two years. All I have done so far is

take specimens into the Australian Museum on my sparse visits to Sydney and that has helped me to tentatively identify some species. Do you have any other suggestions? e-mail <Patty.Jansen@tvl.tcp.csiro.au>

From Shannon Robalinio: I am a student at UC Santa Cruz. I am finishing up a senior project of putting Gary McDonald's nudibranch key on the web. It will include images and relative taxonomic information for each species on the Pacific Coast of the U.S. I will keep you posted as to when the online key is complete -- it's currently about 30% complete. The site is <http://www.biology.ucsc.edu/classes/bio161/NUDI/index.html>.

From Beatrice Burch: I am doing some preliminary work on a *Philine*. Will be traveling to Seattle/Vancouver, B.C. area for a conference soon.

From Heike Wagele: I use the email of my husband, so he brings the news, when I have to stay at home, or did not have enough time to check. It is not so easy with 2 children to find all the time for research, lecturing, household, and!!! serving in the internet. Therefore my comments on the update of your ON will come later.

By the way, I have someone else who is interested to join our family - Annette Kolb. She is working in my group and starts her PhD on eggs of opisthobranchs.

From Terry Gosliner: Dr. Elizabeth Platts and daughter have recently spent 3 weeks in the San Francisco Bay area. Previous to that, Dr. Juan Cervera spent some time at the California Academy of Sciences. Terry has promised to get me some details of his travels and researches soon.

FIELD NOTES:

From Sandra Millen: I missed you at the meetings- hope you make it next year. The trip to Baja with Hans [Bertsch] and Mike Miller was great. Lots of sun and warm water and of course branches. Today [July 3] I dove with Wes Farmer and his friend Andy in the Mission Bay flood channel. There were *Aplysia vaccaria* breeding and some were as long as 43 cm and wide as a football. Hope you are jealous, but I return to the frigid north tomorrow. I'm staying the night at Wes'. Cheers.

From Kerry Werry: I also got your comments about the *Flabellina fusca* & *verrucosa*. Funny you should mention these at this time. I have recently been considering that some of my identifications of these two were wrong. I have seen them sort of lumped together as two virtually indistinguishable animals, but I was starting to think that there seemed to be gill colour and size differences that were apparent at least to me. I realize that gill colour may not be the best thing to be keying on but as a general rule I seem to be seeing *verrucosa* as having brighter red gills and being smaller in overall size than the *fusca*. I have not noticed the difference related to the angular face but will now give things a look, but its one of those traits that I seem to have difficulty with. I also did not know that one species eats the other, who eats who?

From Dave Behrens: Good to hear from you. The species have caused me much

pain. Critics of my first edition point out that photo 114 (in it) is *fusca* not *verrucosa*. Oops. That's why I fixed it in second edition. The main differences are that *fusca* has the thick protruding head and annulate rhinophores, while *verrucosa* has a typical aeolid head and smooth or slightly verrucose rhinophores (hence the name). Hope this helps. Don't know anything about their feeding behavior.

From Kerry Werry: I'll admit right off the bat to finding the *fusca/verrucosa* very difficult to tell apart. Lately I've been getting some ideas that may or may not have any real basis in reality. What I have in general been calling a *verrucosa* is a smaller nudibranch 15-25mm with cerata that appear a darker shade of red, in general (I know this is getting shakey). Most animals that I see that I would call *fusca* are larger around 30-50 mm and have less brilliantly coloured cerata.

Now I notice that you don't give a size for the *fusca* but you say up to 60mm for the *verrucosa*. I'm not sure if: A. Small *fusca* and *verrucosa* both have brighter cerata. B. for what ever reason the populations in my area (British Columbia) are smaller (at least for *verrucosa*) C. I'm out to lunch on this... (not the first time)

Now You also mention head shape and rhinophore type as ID features. Just how annulate are the rhinophores, I don't see any photos I have that are of an animal with markedly annulate rhinophores. From the photo in your book I would say only slightly annulate (if you call say a *Flabellina trilineata* markedly annulate).

Anyway I'll stop there before I confuse the issue and myself further. I also have not heard of the eating habits, but if the opportunity presents itself I will give it a test.

From Wesley M. Farmer: *Cerberilla pungoarena* Collier and Farmer, 1964 was originally recorded from Puerto Refugio, Isla Angel de la Guarda in the Gulf of California, Mexico. The description of that animal has smooth rhinophores not perfoliate (personal communication with Terry Gosliner checking the holotype). If you have a copy of my book 1980 SEA-SLUG GASTROPODS on page 48 please correct the Rhinophores to read **non perfoliate or smooth**. For the original description In: Transactions of the San Diego Society of Natural History Volume 13, No. 19, page 391 please correct 8th paragraph top line ...**are NOT perfoliate**. This dorsal view of the slug is in addition to the anterior view in Plate 6 page 390. This genus and species in my opinion is the same species illustrated as *Cerberilla* sp. from San Diego, California from the Slug Site.

ON THE INTERNET:

From Alan Grant: I have hours and hours (literally) of opisthobranch close up videos. Contact me if you want more information. I'll send you a video shortly. Most are from So. Cal. I'm hoping to do some Morro Bay to Monterey diving this fall to broaden my collection of nudibranch shots. I'd like to get up to your area some day too. I haven't come across anything unusual in my nudibranch shots yet but I'm still hoping.

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The Delaware Museum of Natural History invites applications for a position of Assistant Curator of Malacology. Responsibilities include conduct of collections-based research in some aspect of molluscan biology, collection management, editorship of DMNH publications, departmental administration, and participation in the museum's public programs. Applicants must have a doctorate degree or equivalent experience. Curatorial experience desired. Position available January 1997. Send curriculum vitae, brief statement of research interest, and the names, addresses and numbers (phone, email) of three references by August 31, 1996, to: Malacology Search Committee, Delaware Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 3937, Wilmington, DE 19807, U.S.A. Applications may also be faxed (302-658-2610) or emailed via bieler@fmnh.org

From Serge Gofas & Jacques Le Renard: Announcing CLEMAM (Check List of European Marine Mollusca) This is an announcement of the initial version of the CLEMAM list which can now be consulted on the web. It is a comprehensive database of the families, genera and species of European marine molluscs (South to 26°N, West to the Mid Atlantic Ridge) containing ca. 3000 valid names and their synonyms (ca. 15000 names in total). As such, it is a companion project of Gary Rosenberg's MALACOLOG database of Western Atlantic Mollusca, and we are working towards a common format.

The codes for accessing to CLEMAM are: <http://www.mnhn.fr/base/malaco.html>

We have devised a system where one can consult either the whole list of valid names without the synonyms, or any particular name with all the synonyms.

From Tom Meijer: After the successful congress "The Dawn of the Quaternary" I have updated and extended the homepage of EQMal: <http://www.inter.nl.net/users/Meijer.T/eqmal.html>

From Bernard Picton: Hi Steve, They did some rearranging of addresses here - You should get me on <http://www2.tcd.ie/People/Bernard.Picton> Could you please change any links into my site with the -bepicton address to the new one as above. Thanks for letting me know it had stopped working. The web people here made the change some weeks ago but had a temporary re-routing on from old addresses.

From Paul Katz: ...I was delighted to run across your web site. I see that I am on your address list, but my address and e-mail are incorrect. Please correct them with the information below. One more thing. As I mentioned to you when we spoke, I work on the nudibranch, *Tritonia diomedea*. I was wondering if you could ask your subscribers or post on your web site a request for me. I'm looking for additional suppliers of *Tritonia* for our experimental work. Thanks for your help.

From Kerry Werry: The following are currently on the Creature Page: *Dirona*

albolineata, *Janolus fuscus*, *Triopha catalinae*, *Laila cockerelli*, *Dendronotus diversicolor*, *Dendronotus rufus*, *Dendronotus iris*, *Melibe leonina*, *Archidoris montereyensis*, *Acanthodoris nanaimoensis*, *Aldisa cooperi*, *Hermisenda crassicornis*, *Flabellina fusca*, *Flabellina verrucosa*, *Flabellina trilineata*, *Tochuina tetraquetra*, *Diaulula sandiegensis*, *Aeolidia papillosa*, *Tritonia festiva*, *Phyllaplysia taylori*, *Onchidoris bilamellata*, *Armina californica*. The new address is: <http://clever.net/kerry/creature/creature.htm>

From Michael Miller: New on the Slug Site: *Euselenops luniceps*, *Glossodoris stellatus*, *Hypselodoris purpureomaculosa*, *Cuthona abronia*, *Babakina festiva*, *Flabellina bilas*. The site has over 175 images now!

From Sandra Millen: I am delighted you are going to add Opisthobranchs other than nudibranchs to the bibliography. I don't think the lamellarids should be added however. They are definitely prosobranchs (no one disagrees about this) and they are only nudibranch "look alikes". I don't think we should encourage their association with branches.

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