

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

If you read this on the net, please send me your e-mail address. I would also appreciate addresses and short biographies for everyone who has ever worked with opisthobranchs.

Gary McDonald has been fantastic, sending me lots of bibliographic citations. I still need the paper reprints wherever possible so that I can keep up with the indexing. I most need reprints for papers published after 1983.

This year I hope to have a lot more short articles and comments from subscribers. The ON is limited for printing space but the databases are not. Send all of the data you can. Oz.net has provided wonderful support this past year and will be adding functions to the search engine after the first of the year.

Speaking of search engines — many of you have not used the current search engine. You are really missing out. The Bibliographic search goes through only the bibliography. The Taxon search goes through bibliography, taxa list, Zoological Record list, nudibranch systematic list, opisthobranch systematic list, and color illustration list.

These searches pull out all of the citations and lists which include the items in the search. You can then print out the result or cut and paste into other documents. If you do the taxon search on a species with a color photo the link will be returned; you click the link and go directly to the photo wherever it is. Several people have tried it and reported good results.

We need your \$20.00 subscription for the **Opisthobranch Newsletter** even if you only use the electronic format. This is a labor of love but has bills to pay. If you cannot afford the rate, send what you can and let me know. There are "scholarships" available.

READER FORUM:

Caulerpa Controversy: It seems like the *Caulerpa* controversy has livened things up a bit. I have a point to add to the fray. The number of ecological disasters that have been started by good intentioned people trying to use relatively benign organisms as biological controls and having grave ecological consequences is staggering. All one has to do is to look at the extinction of island gastropod faunas in Moorea and in Hawaii to see how a supposed biological control has gone very bad. The argument that these aren't predatory may be a moot point. They could cause the extinction of native *Caulerpa* species and avoid feeding on the species that they are there to control. Opisthobranchs are thought to be relatively benign in environments, but you have the example of the introduction of *Philine auriformis* in San Francisco Bay and its

spread to the entire outer coast of California. It is certainly having a very negative effect on local shorebirds and soft bottom communities over a wide geographical area. People should stop playing God and remember Jurassic Park. — Terry Gosliner

PERSONAL NOTES:

From Jeroen Goud: I am just yesterday returned from Ambon (Mollucas, Indonesia) where I was involved in a coralreef biodiversity project. I studied reef associated mollusca and also the nudibranchs (app. 50 species of which 49 are new as a record for Ambon, because there was just only one!).

Paula Mikkelsen has moved to the American Museum of Natural History from the Delaware Museum of Natural History. [Department of Invertebrates, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, NY 10024-5192; Tel. (212) 769-5244; FAX (212) 769-5783; <mikkel@amnh.org>]

From Victor Ocampo: Thank you for responding to my inquiry on planktonic mollusks. I am an amateur conchologist living in Manila, Philippines and for the last six years I've been trying to compile all references that I can on the species that can be found around our shores (I'll be putting up a web-site on Philippine mollusks by next year. Please watch for it.) I've always been interested in planktonic species (as well as the other Opisthobranchia) but there was always a dearth of "hard copy" material here at home. When I finally got internet access last month, my work finally (and happily) became a little easier.

At the moment, I have almost no way to identify my specimens (save for the most common ones like *Bulla ampulla* and some Pyramidellidae) nor collect specimens without their fragile shells being crushed or, in the case of the nudibranchs, without them disintegrating. I have three specimens that intrigue me at the moment. One is clearly a Hamineidei sp. (up to 8 mm in size, transparent, shaped like *Atys cylindricus*, Helbling 1779 but much smaller). The second is shaped like and about the size of a Liottiinae sp. (5 mm) but is also transparent with a strongly reticulated surface. The third is barely 4 mm long and is shaped like a *Nerita* sp. but with a transparent shell and a similar reticulated pattern (I doubt that the last two are Opisthobranchs but I could be wrong). All three come from the Bicol Region in the southern portion of Luzon island. I have tried to photograph them but they are too small for my macro lens.

Penultimately, is there any way to preserve nudibranchs and sea butterflies without the colour fading? I have tried to use both alcohol and formalin but they lose colour almost immediately upon death. I'm saving up for an underwater camera, maybe this is the only real way to "capture" the fragile beauty of these animals. [65 Dona Juana Rodriguez St.; New Manila, Quezon City; Philippines 1112; Tel# (632) 721-5220, <griffin@PWORLD.NET.PH>]

From Dick Roller: My correct address is 607 Driskell St., Paris, IL 61944; 217-466-6380. <roller@tigerpaw.com>. I am still interested in opisthobranchs.

Soledad Guzman: I am working in Mollusks from plankton in cost of Peru. I am very interested in Heteropods like *Pterotrachea*, *Carinaria* and *Cardiopoda*. Also the family Phylliroidea is important to me. I would appreciate addresses and names of people who work with the same subject. <imarpebib@amauta.rcp.net.pe>

Paul Sammut: I would like to communicate with somebody interested and currently studying the Gymnosomata group. Malta <pasammut@DREAM.VOL.NET.MT>

Christoffer Schander, Graham Mason, J.J. van Aartsen are compiling Pyramidellid taxa. Graham and a few others are working on a pyramidellid bibliography. See the new home page on the Internet at <http://chrysalida.zool.gu.se/Pyramidellid.html>

From Ángel Valdés: I have seen your request for help ... regarding your project to generate a list of Opisthobranch type material, and I think I could be of some help. The list I have now is ... in need of editing, but I think that at the end of April 1997 I will be able to send you the list. [Departamento de Biología de Organismos y Sistemas; Laboratorio de Zoología; c/ Catedrático Rodrigo Uría s/n; 33071 Oviedo; España / Spain]

From Wolfgang Seifarth: I am currently reconstructing my homepage and building a "German Slug Site" which will contain a number of nudibranch images I have collected throughout the last few years on diving trips at the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea and the Maldives. Furthermore, there will be a marine flatworm section. [III. Med. Klinik, Klinikum Mannheim; University Heidelberg; Wiesbadener Straße 7-11; D-68305 Mannheim, Germany; <seifarth@rumms.uni-mannheim.de>].

RANGE EXTENSION:

Trapania velox (Cockerell, 1901). The range of this reasonably uncommon species is extended northward from Avila Beach to Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California where it has been observed and collected commonly in deep holes in this coastal estuary (Michael Behrens and Duke McPherson, pers. comm.) — David W. Behrens.

INFORMATION WANTED:

From Bob Bolland: Having a difficult time getting e-mail (or postal) address on either Osumi or Yamasu (ref. below). I need this paper and would like to request a reprint. Any chance you can generate the address for me?

Osumi, D.; Yamasu, T. 1994. The Nudibranch, *Gymnodoris nigricolor* Baba, Parasitic with Marine Gobies. Zoological Science (Tokyo) 11(Suppl.):54.

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