

Opisthobranch Newsletter

February, 1997, 23(2):5

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

Please make a note of my new address in Shoreline (north Seattle). Even though I only moved 5 miles north and use the same post office, they cannot seem to be bothered to forward the mail. Reprints and other printed matter with the old address may be returned to the sender months later.

READER FORUM:

Caulerpa Controversy

Response. We truly appreciate the comparison between *Caulerpa taxifolia* and Jurassic Park. It should be stressed however that the main actor of the new Jurassic Park Movie is the special aquarium clone of *Caulerpa taxifolia*, a lovely "Alien" which is invading all the Mediterranean ecosystems.

The only local species of *Caulerpa*, *Caulerpa prolifera*, is already dying because of its invasion by the introduced *C. taxifolia*.

We are not playing "God" at all. If it was the case we would have already introduced the tropical species, without taking care of the specialists' opinion. We are really concerned with the protection of the native species and carefully considered the risks of introducing new species. This is why we did not do it so far, and why we are now asking the international scientific community's opinion.

However we truly wish to explore any way to stop *C. taxifolia*'s invasion. Do we have to stay passive? What else can we do as it is now impossible to eradicate it through conventional methods.

Biological control seems to be an interesting possibility, even if we know the risks.

We much appreciate the opinion of any scientist on this topic, but it should be remembered that one must SEE the extent of the invasion before making ironic sentences comparing us to "God" in "Jurassic Park". We are dealing with 100 % invasion of the richest and most diverse habitats of the Mediterranean Sea. In many previous cases, the invading species was restricted to a very precise "niche", therefore not threatening all the ecosystems. This is unfortunately not the case with *C. taxifolia*. -- A. Meinesz alias "Sigourney Weaver"

New Pleurobranch off Mexico.

A new species of pleurobranch has been collected off the outer coast of Baja California. Several large specimens of an animal somewhat similar in appearance to *Pleurobranchus areolatus* (Mörch, 1863) were photographed by Eric Haucke of Santa Cruz, California, while diving at San Benitos Island. While the specimens were brown in color with the characteristic large notal tubercles, they differ from *P. areolatus* in that the tubercles are low, smooth and rounded, not tall and pointed. The color pattern differs slightly with the largest tubercles being darker brown than the smaller ones. The specimens photographed do not have the uniform white speckling or encrustation typical for *P. areolatus*. -- Dave Behrens & Eric Haucke

SPECIMENS WANTED:

I would be very grateful if someone could supply me slides and specimens of the aeolid nudibranch *Spurilla neapolitana* from the Caribbean Sea, if they are from the Sargassum Sea area. In any case, I would appreciate specimens from other localities in

the Caribbean Sea. Please, let me know also the different color pattern of this species in this side of the Atlantic Ocean. Dr. Juan Lucas Cervera.

NOTE:

***Flabellina* sp. 2 (= *Flabellina vansyoci* Gosliner, 1994)** This colorful aeolid from the southern portion of this coast has been recently described by Terry Gosliner (Gosliner, 1994), and given the name *Flabellina vansyoci*. The radular formula for the species is 36 x 1.1.1. The rachidian tooth bears 5-6 triangular denticles. The margin teeth bear 15-20 denticles. The size of the species ranges from 15-30mm. The species is documented to occur at Magdalena Bay, Baja California and Islas Ladrões, Panama. The species was named in recognition of Robert VanSyoc of the California Academy of Sciences, in San Francisco, California. [refer to Pacific Coast Nudibranchs 2nd ed.] – Dave Behrens

PERSONAL NOTES:

Don Cadien just returned from the Puerto Vallarta, Mexico area where he was collecting with Jim Lance and Don's son. They had a good trip and surveyed much of the intertidal up toward San Blas.

From Brian Penney: Hello! I saw your site on the web, and thought I should contact you. I am a graduate student with Dr. Rich Palmer at U Alberta, and I am looking at the evolution of chemical defense in dorids. As you know, many studies have been done on the actual chemicals, but I hope to do a comparative study within one of the well studied groups, to see if there might be patterns in how the dorids use certain chemicals and taxa of sponges.

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If you hear of anyone else interested in related topics, please have them contact me. Thanks a lot! Cheers- Brian K. Penney, Z923 Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E9

MEETING NOTE:

The First Annual(?) SCUM Meeting (Southern California >Unified/Associated Malacologists) was held in the Department of Geological Sciences at San Diego State University, San Diego, California, on Saturday, January 11, 1997. Hans Bertsch presented "Opisthobranchs of Bahia de los Angeles and analysis of and conclusion of a 5 year project based on seasonal data."

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- June 22-27, 1997** 63rd Annual Meeting, The American Malacological Union. Annual Meeting Western Society of Malacologists, Santa Barbara, California. The call for papers is out. Write or email: Dr. Eugene V. Coan, President, American Malacological Union, 891 San Jude Avenue, Palo Alto, California, U.S.A. -- 94306-2640, H: (415) 493-8242; W: (415) 977-568; Fax: (415) 977-5799, gene.coan@sierraclub.org
- October 13-17, 1997** The III Latin American Congress of Malacology will be held together with the IV Mexican Congress of Malacology and Conchology, in Ensenada, Baja California. Information is available <http://www.cicese.mx/ocenoacuicultura/iilicla.html> or writing to: Martha Reguero Reza: <reguero@mar.icmyl.unam.mx> or: M.C. Claudia Farfán; President of the Committee: Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, B.C.; Km. 107 carretera Tijuana-Ensenada; Apartado Postal 2732; Ensenada, Baja California, México. Teléfono: (61) 74 5050 al 53, Ext. 24300 Tel/Fax: (61) 74 4225; P.O. Box 430222; San Diego, Ca 92143-0222 USA