

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Wayne Ellis has his first 6 issues of australasian nudibranch NEWS out. You can find them at <http://www.seaslug.com> or Wayne will email them direct to you on your request to glaskin@ozemail.com.au. Lots of great color photos and information on branches from Australia and around the world. The issues are produced in Portable Document Format. Wayne does a great job keeping track of the many opisthobranch sites.

Several people are starting to send notices of their slug site updates to the Seaslug Listserv (seaslug@oz.net) so that the subscribers can look at them easily. I welcome more of you to send your update notices. If you are a subscriber you can send your entries directly. If you want to join, send me your name, address, phone, etc. and I will put you on the list. You must subscribe to send information to the list to help prevent unwanted SPAM.

PERSONAL NOTES

From Vic Smith: I am a recent BS graduate (aquatic biology) from Sonoma State University, now attending classes at San Francisco State. I began serious work with opisthobranchs in 1977 while attending the Summer Systematics Institute at California Academy of Sciences under the guidance of Terry Gosliner. We began a project at that time describing 3 new species of the genus *Melibe*, and are working to complete that paper now. I then will begin my graduate work under the guidance of Terry Gosliner and Gary McDonald, working on the relationship between Tritonids and their octocoral prey. I am also interested in zooxanthellae in nudibranchs, such as *Melibe*. - vicsmyth@earthlink.net

From Lucie Hannah: I am a final year Marine Biology undergraduate in the UK and I have an avid interest in pursuing a PhD in the area of aeolid defence systems or other aspects of nudibranch biology. It would help me greatly if anyone could suggest possible supervisors around the world (I am focusing on Australia) who might be interested in or working on research in this area. - osu00c@bangor.ac.uk

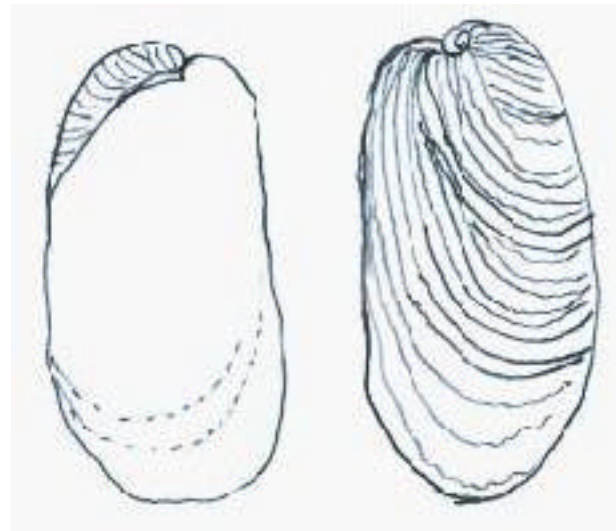
From Sérgio Ávila: I teach and do my research at the University of the Azores, located in the island of São

Miguel. The Azores are a group of nine islands located in the middle of the North Atlantic, some 1500 km away from Lisbon, Portugal and 2100 km from Newfoundland, (North America). I teach Malacology and Invertebrates. My main research field is the systematics, ecology and evolution of the Rissoidae. There are about 20 shallow water Rissoidae species here in the Azores, most of them being endemic, so they are a very interesting group to study. I'm also interested in other families (e.g. Trochidae, Turridae, Cephalaspidea) and presently I have been publishing some papers about the shallow-water species (down to 50m depth) of the Azores - you can find some information in my web page: <http://www.uac.pt/db/bmarinha/sa/molazores.html> So far, more than 200 species have been confirmed, the list being available to everybody who desires it (just send a e-mail to me).

I'm also interested in studies about the dispersion of larvae across the North Atlantic Ocean and its relation with the main sea-surface currents in this area (Gulf Stream, North Atlantic Current, Azores Current, etc) and in the related problems of reaching an island and in the consequences of successful colonization of these islands. These biogeographical studies are quite interesting. - avila@alf.uac.pt

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

From Sérgio Ávila: I have collected at São Miguel, Azores (North Atlantic) at about 14m, a white/translucent shell, protoconch yellowish, (4,0mm x 2,0mm) that I tentatively identified as *Philine desmotis* Watson, 1897 (CEPHALASPIDEA: PHILINIDAE). (you can see its drawing below).



Philine desmotis Watson, 1897 (4.0mm x 2.0mm)

In the Azores and according to Mikkelsen (1995), there are 6 species of *Philine* reported: *approximans* Dautzenberg & Fischer, 1896; *azorica* Bouchet, 1975; *?lima* Brown, 1827

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monilifera Bouchet, 1975

quadrata (S. Wood, 1839)

rugulosa Dautzenberg & Fischer, 1896.

P. azorica is reported to be a shallow-water species, but I have no pictures of it. Can anybody help me? - avila@alf.uac.pt

From Manuel Malaquias: I am from Portugal and I work with opisthobranchs from Madeira archipelago and from Iberian Peninsula.

I am writing a paper about the Cephalaspidea of Madeira archipelago (Atlantic, Portugal). I'm having a "problem" with the synonymy of two species. According to Thompson (1976) *Retusa truncatula* is the same as *Retusa mammillata* (sin.) and *Cylichnina nitidula* (sin.) is the same as *Retusa umbilicata*. Could anybody confirm this data? Does anybody have new information about these species? - m_malaquias@yahoo.com

From Jussi Evertsen: Does any of you have any information about the validity of *Coryphella bostoniensis* (Couthouy, 1839)? It is mostly mentioned from northern waters, but I can not seem to find any references/work that deals with this species later than Odhner (1907). It does not seem to be treated in any of the *Coryphella* papers of Kuzirian (see 1979 etc.).

As a little happy information I can reintroduce *Tritonia griegi* Odhner, 1922 from *Lophelia* coral reefs here from the Trondheims fjord. It should be interesting to see what it feeds on. - jussie@stud.ntnu.no

From Terry Gosliner: Couthouy's *Eolis bostoniensis* is a *Facelina*. It is the senior synonym of *Eolis curta* Alder & Hancock. - tgosliner@casmail.calacademy.org

From Jorge Mendez Fuentes: My question is about the pteropods, pelagic butterfly snails. Where can I find photographic records of the living animal, specially about the *Clio* group? Their shell is very unusual!. I just have noticed this shell in Abbot and Dance's compendium. - jmendezf@BUZON.MAIN.CONACYT.MX

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