

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTES

My primary goal is to index the opisthobranch literature. Please do send me any species lists, citation lists, subject lists or anything similar for opisthobranchs. As I have time I am merging them into the big lists. I need copies of each paper, article and book you can provide to pull out the species names. If you can send me a list of the species in the paper along with the complete citation, please do.

Range extensions of six opisthobranchs to Punta Rosarito, Baja California.

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Introduction

On 29 and 30 March 2000, we surveyed opisthobranch molluscs at two intertidal sites on the Pacific coast of central Baja California, Mexico. The first was at the tip of Punta Rosarito, (28° 33.75' N, 114° 09.03' W); the second was five kilometers southeast of Punta Rosarito (28° 33.12' N, 114° 06.49' W) (Figure 1). These two sites are actually part of a larger, continuous cobble field, which at our second site grades into a low rock shelf pocketed with small tidepools. We found a total of 34 species of opisthobranchs at these sites, including 6 species not reported previously as far south or north. We document these range extensions below. Unless otherwise noted, all specimens mentioned below were found at the first site on the tip of Punta Rosarito. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the Invertebrate Zoology collection at the California Academy of Sciences, and catalog numbers are given with the species accounts below. We believe these range extensions are simply the result of sampling in an area little sampled before, and do not represent actual range expansions by the species themselves.

Results and discussion

Notaspidea

1. *Berthella strongi* (MacFarland, 1966). We found three specimens, 10, 14 and 15 mm long, under cobbles. The two smaller specimens (CASIZ 122181) had a pale

yellow notum with a few opaque white defensive glands. The third specimen had a reddish tinge to the head tentacles and lacked the opaque white glands, but had radular teeth and jaw plate denticles identical to those described and depicted by Gosliner & Bertsch (1988) for *B. strongi*.

Range extension from White's Point, Palos Verdes Peninsula (MacFarland, 1966; Sphon, 1972). Note: this past winter we also found numerous specimens of *Berthella strongi* under cobbles in tidepools at Bird Rock in La Jolla, California.

Nudibranchia, Doridacea

2. *Discodoris* sp. 1 of Behrens (1991). We found 9 specimens, 11.2 to 17.5 mm long. Four of these have been deposited in the California Academy of Sciences (CASIZ 122177). Two color forms were found: one with a pale yellow-orange ground color, and another with a pale green ground color. Specimens of the former matched the color pattern of the specimen pictured in Behrens (1991), while specimens of the latter form lacked the concentrated black spots and instead had larger, more diffuse dark spots, especially along the sides of the hepatic region. Both forms had slender pointed oral tentacles and the small, thin white circles on the dorsum visible in the photograph of this species in Behrens (1991).

Range extension north from Punta Eugenia, Baja California Sur (Behrens, 1991).

3. *Triopha maculata* MacFarland, 1905. We found a single juvenile specimen (CASIZ 122176) under a cobble in a low intertidal pool at the site just south of Punta Rosarito. This specimen was identical in color to the "red phase" depicted in Behrens (1991).

Range extension south from Punta Cono, Baja California (Bertsch & Aguilar Rosas, 1984).

Nudibranchia, Aeolidacea

4. *Aeolidia papillosa* (Linnaeus, 1761). We found a single specimen (CASIZ 122175), 23 mm long preserved, under a cobble. This specimen was virtually identical in color to that depicted in Behrens (1991).

Range extension south from Bahia de Todos Santos (Bertsch, 1983).

5. *Cuthona albocrusta* (MacFarland, 1966). We found two specimens (CASIZ 122184) with egg masses on *Sertularia* sp. growing on the surfgrass *Phyllospadix* sp. We found an additional specimen (CASIZ 122182) on 27 March 2000 23 kilometers northwest of Punta Rosarito in a mid-intertidal pool on the tip of Punta San Andrés (28° 42.50' N, 114° 18.07' W) (Figure 1). All three specimens had a color pattern virtually identical to that depicted for this species by Behrens (1991).

Range extension from Bird Rock, La Jolla, California (Goddard, 2000).

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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6. *Flabellina bertschi* Gosliner & Kuzirian, 1990. We found a single specimen (CASIZ 122178) of this distinctive aeolid under a cobble at the site just south of Punta Rosarito. Two more specimens (CASIZ 122178) were found in the same tidepool at Punta San Andrés as the *Cuthona albocrusta* mentioned above. These latter specimens of *F. bertschi* were found amongst 12 *Flabellina trilineata* (O'Donoghue, 1921), which at first glance they closely resemble and with which they may form a mimicry complex, at least where the two species co-occur.

Flabellina bertschi can be distinguished from *F. trilineata* by its smooth rhinophores and broad white band on the notum, instead of the annulate rhinophores and three, thin white lines on the body of *F. trilineata*. *F. bertschi* also has minute white flecks on its cerata and lacks orange pigment on the rhinophores and cephalic tentacles.

Range extension from the Gulf of California (Gosliner & Kuzirian, 1990) and the Pacific coast of Panama (Gosliner, 1994).

At Punta Rosarito we also found two large, mature specimens of *Flabellina iodinea* (Cooper, 1862). Behrens (1991) reported Bahia de San Quintin as being the southern range limit of this species, but Mulliner (1982) reported it from subtidal seamounts off Punta Asuncion, Baja California Sur, and Behrens (1983) from Cedros Island. Gosliner (1991) also reported *F. iodinea* from the Galapagos Islands.

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Figure 1. Map of region around Punta Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico (28° 33.75' N, 114° 09.03' W), showing collection localities (small arrows).



PERSONAL NOTES

Cynthia Trowbridge spent four weeks in Japan at Misaki Marine Biological Station. She worked with Dr. Yoshi Hirano from Kominato Marine Laboratory on the feeding ecology of Japanese ascoglossans associated with the green alga *Codium fragile*. trowbric@bcc.orst.edu

Kathe Jensen will be in Thailand for the next 2 years. Her e-mail address is: jensen@ait.ac.th

Opisthobranch Newsletter

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My version of a **complete** citation is as follows: Full author names (even if full name not used in publication), exact publication date (year, month, day), edition if applicable, complete title and sub-title (in original language followed by English translation in square brackets), complete journal name or publication name, series, volume number, issue numbers, pages (numbered, lettered or unnumbered), plates, photos, text figures, maps, tables, appendices, etc. This should be followed by the names of each species or genus mentioned in the body of the work in square brackets. Please also tell me what language the article is in even if that language is English. With all that said, anything is better than nothing.

Thanks to Cynthia Trowbridge, Kathy Jensen and Chris Garvey for major inputs to the bibliography. Ongoing special thanks to Gary McDonald for providing bibliography on a regular basis. Thanks to Erwin Koehler for the illustration lists.

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Opisthobranch Newsletter

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