ID CRISIS
Your critter finds identified

Neville Coleman
worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au

Dear Neville,
Location: Bluff Hill Point, West coast, Tasmania, 1 November 2011; Depth: 2 m; Size: 15 mm
Habitat: temperate marine; enclosed bay,

sheltered from SW/W swells; live brown algae beds, with significant amounts of Durvillea detritus deposits on seabed
Camera system: Nikon D90; Ikelite housing and dual strobes
Photographer/discoverer: David Maynard
General comment: During a lull in the weather, I found a surprising number of anemone species living on and around masses of dead and decaying bull kelp (Durvillea) (not the nicest dive site I've been to!). This pair of anemones were on the stem of living brown algae. Perhaps this is a juvenile of a common temperate water anemone, but I've never seen one with the tentacles in this orientation. The column and pedal disc of the left individual matched the dark brown of the tentacles.
David Maynard, Lecturer
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania

Dear Dave,
Thank you for the intriguing image and interesting subjects. They could be juveniles of known species, or undescribed. I have nothing in my system that matches them. Great discovery and observation, I've never ever seen two doing this at the one time.
FAMILY: Actiniidae
REMARKS: I have no idea of the species, as they appear to both be standing on their heads and showing their pedal discs, rarely an ID feature in any sea anemone description or image ID. It appears this species (similar to a few others I'm aware of) are able to move on their pedal discs. When they encounter food that's attached to a substrate, they virtually turn themselves upside down and engulf the prey, dissolving its tissues. Once the food is absorbed, they turn the right way up and continue their search. The tentacles appear to have acontia threads inside?

Hello Neville,
Thank you for the reply and identification. Just to know the species range is now further than previously known, and to be linked to the famous Rudie Kuiter is still a win for me. Lately what I first thought was a sponge turned out to be a small orange velvetfish, another first for me. Still amazes me what can be found at your local dive sites if you just look around. I recently saw the biggest nudi I've seen to date. Then it slid up next to an even bigger version. Thought I'd send these to see if it is unusual for a *doriddae hoplodoris*(?). The one next to my hand is the smaller of the two I found.
Cheers Brad Pryde

Pics 1 &2
FAMILY: Doridiidae
COMMON NAME: Mushroom hoplodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hoplodoris* sp.
REMARKS: I've not seen this species in the field, but it appears to be this genus and as far as I can determine it is undescribed. Congratulations.
FAMILY: Aploactinidae
COMMON NAME: Velvetfish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: '*Paraploactis*' sp.
REMARKS: I am unable to find any visual reference to a similar velvetfish as yours and as such assume that it is a tropical species and I can hazard a guess. However, few colour images and /or colour variations have been published, even on tropical species. I have the juvenile common velvetfish *Aploactisoma milesii* but they always have large, high first dorsal spines. Once again, congratulations on your discovery!

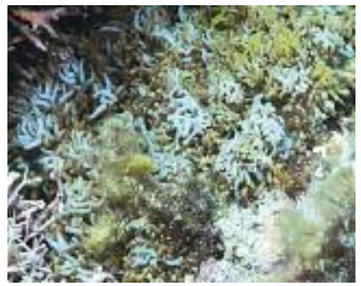
Dear Sir,
I'm a scientist and scientific photographer for different universities and magazines here in Europe - based in Salzburg, Austria. During my last stay at the southeast Sulawesi Area, Bantu Island, in early November 2011, we found a... well, is it a worm or a sea cucumber? Could not find a hint on that. Even all diveguides and spotters on the *Pelagian* had not a clue what it could be. It would be great and I would be glad to get your scientific analysis and statement on that certain creature. And also on the - for me a bit strange nudibranch - in the other shot. I'd very much appreciate your help and assistance.
Kind regards, Dr Ernst Koschier


Pic 1


Pic 2

Dear Dr. Koschier,
Thank you for your submission, your images are excellent and intriguing.
Pic 1
COMMON NAME: Bamboo worm
REMARKS: I've not seen this before and have no idea of its identity information.
Pic 2
FAMILY: Bornellidae
COMMON NAME: Spiky bornella
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Dendronotus* sp.
REMARKS: Undescribed species known from Sulawesi, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. It grows to around 15 mm.

Hi Neville.
Unidentified anemones from the Wakatobi MNP, Indonesia.
I was prompted to send these to you due to your recent update on facebook about anemones. Have you come across this one



before? Unfortunately it was quite well tucked away and I didn't have the means to 'prod it around' to see the body so I'm not able to give any more information. I've seen this before but not often.
All the best, Lindsay Warren

Dear Lindsay,
Thank you for your submission. Yes, there has been a remarkable interest in the Hazardous Marine Life eBooks series from the posts on facebook. This is an intriguing critter.
FAMILY: Discosomatidae
COMMON NAME: Carpet corallimorph
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Discosoma rhodostoma*
REMARKS: Very common species across the Indo-Pacific reefs, even though it is rarely noticed, as it forms low profile colonies that spread over dead reef. Although it appears harmless enough, it is a virulent stinger and can even sting through a Lycra suit. (see *Venomous Marine Life* eBook for more information and an account of a case report.)

Dear Neville,
I took these two photos snorkeling at Yallingup Lagoon in Western Australia.
I think one is *Hydatina physis* but wonder if its been sighted in these waters before?
The other I identified as *Ceratsoma brevicaudatum* and wondered what the purple lump is on it's back towards the rear end? I'd be grateful for your help. Best wishes, Marian Carroll


Pic 1


Pic 2

Dear Marian,
Congratulations! You did very well to get such good images on a snorkel and your ID's are spot on.
Pic 1 FAMILY: Aplustridae
COMMON NAME: Rose petal bubble
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hydatina physis*
REMARKS: Yes, the rose petal bubble is fairly common in WA, especially around Rottnest Island during summer months. It ranges across the Indo–Pacific, grows to 50 mm and feeds on worms.
Pic 2 FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Short-tailed ceratosoma
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*
REMARKS: The purple lump on the back just under the mantle line is the reason for it's common name, short-tailed ceratosoma. The nudibranch stores distasteful chemicals from it's food in this hump to deter predators. This species occurs all around the shores of southern Australia, (also found in New Zealand) grows to 120 mm, and feeds on sponges.

Good day Neville,
In 2007 I photographed a blue nudibranch in Mozambique and all the websites (including nudipixel) I visited can't identify it for me. The photo is a bit blurry according to them, so they don't want to publish it. I just need identification of the nudibranch. I appreciate you having a look.
Regards, Annatjie Rademeyer

Dear Annatjie,
As I've never seen this nudibranch before and I am not able to see all its characteristics, my best guess is a guess!
FAMILY: Chromodoridiidae
COMMON NAME: 'Blue ceratosoma'
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: '*Ceratosoma*' sp.
REMARKS: This is the closest I can get. However, this is not a given identity, just a guess, as I agree with the other people you've sent it too.

Hello Neville,
I found this Nudibranch at Puerto Galera. It looks like a *Risbecia apolegma* but there are reddish circular dots on its body. Are these reddish dots a form of parasite?
Thank you, Lucas, Singapore.

Dear Lucas,
Many thanks for your inquiry, it's certainly interesting.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Giant hypselodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hypselodoris apolegma*
REMARKS: Grows to 100 mm and feeds on sponges. It is distributed from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan. I've certainly never seen this species with red dots before. As they are not in any order, like a pattern, I think you are correct, the profile appears raised and the shapes might suggest they could be parasitic flatworms.

>

ID CRISIS

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Hi there Neville,
Just wanted to confirm if these pics are of a berthallina? Your book shows many different kinds - can you help narrow it down? This critter was found in Mabul on an afternoon dive, on 15 December 2011 between 12 - 16m depth. It was about 5 - 6cm long. Pics taken with a Canon G9 with macro wet lens (UCL165).

Spotted by a brilliant dive guide Bobby Emmanuel and photographed by me.
Thanks a lot for your help!
Best wishes, Vivian Koh

Dear Vivian,
Yes, unfortunately most species of opisthobranchs have colour variations that at the time make them very confusing to identify.
FAMILY: Pleurobranchidae
COMMON NAMES: Marten's berthella
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Berthella martensi*
REMARKS: Known across the Indo-Pacific, this species has a number of colour variations and ranges from positive to negative patterns. It grows to 60 mm and feeds on sponges and ascidians.

Dear Neville,
Its taken me another 18 years diving to find another specimen of this little beauty and now the camera gear is much better. What do you reckon? And I have one more for you. I only got a grab shot of this guy at night in Alor, Indonesia. I've never seen this fish before. Do you know this one?
Regards Jim Black

Pic 1

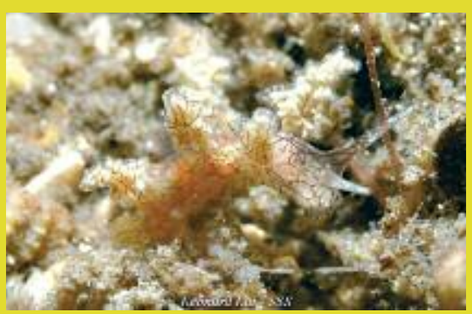
Pic 2

Dear Jim,
Many thanks for giving our readers the chance to view this magnificent little critter. When I used your first image in *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia*, nobody in Australian nudibranch taxonomy knew where it belonged. When Terry's book came out I noticed he had sorted it out; yet as you say, it is still to be described!

Pic 1 FAMILY: Aglajidae
COMMON NAME: Candy banded chelidonura
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chelidonura* sp.
REMARKS: Known from Indonesia, Taiwan, Madagascar and Japan. It grows to 30 mm. Super shot!
Pic 2 Terrific shot of this little fish, right out in the open.
FAMILY: Carapidae
COMMON NAME: Silver pearlfish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Encheliophis homei*
REMARKS: Its existence is well known, but rarely seen and photographed, it occurs throughout the Indo-Pacific; grows to around 14 cm.
Members of this family also inhabit pearl shells and sea squirts.
Your fish inhabits the body cavity (by way of the anus) of sea cucumbers during the day and only comes out at night.

Dear Mr. Neville,
Got a new nudi that I found last month and need you to check it out for me as I'm not so sure which group it is ? Length 04 mm, found on sandy area at about 8 metres. Thank you and wishing you all the best.
Leonard Lai William Jr, Sabah, Malaysia.

Dear Leonard,
What a super species, I've never seen it before and would determine that it is an undescribed species as I am unable to find any visual reference to it.



FAMILY: Dotidae
COMMON NAME: Leonard's doto
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Doto* sp.
REMARKS: The fact that I have chosen to use Leonard's name as the common name goes to determine that the species is unique; it does not necessarily mean that when it is eventually described the scientific name will be attributed to him. There are now hundreds of new species of opisthobranchs and only a few nudibranch taxonomists to describe new species. It will take many years for all the new species to be scientifically named. There are still many species that were discovered up to 40 years ago sitting in Museums awaiting description.
I am indebted to Gary Cobb of nudibranchs.com.au for his input in determining the identity of this nudibranch.

Hello Neville,
I took this picture at about 17m on a sandy bottom in Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea in mid November 2011. Since then, despite looking through several ID books and asking every diver I know, I haven't been able to identify it.
Any help would be appreciated.
Thank you, James Williams

Dear James,
Yes, these are a bit of an enigma for everybody to begin with. You'll find an example in my *Marine Life Identification* App for iPhones, iTouch and iPad in the Apple App store.
FAMILY: Coeloplanidae
COMMON NAME: Moonscape ctenophore
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Coeloplana* sp.
REMARKS: This is a creeping ctenophore and appears to be this one. They are generally found on muddy, or sandy

bottoms and have two large tentacle sheaths which emit sticky threads which they trail out into the current to snare plankton. Yours only seems to have one tentacle sheath. They are known from Indonesia to Papua New Guinea and grow to around 50 mm.

AG/53 Dear Mr. Coleman,
I've recently dived Anilao Philippines and came across these 2 nudibranchs and wonder if they're a new species. With your expertise, could you kindly advice? Thank you and best regards,
William Loke

Dear William,
Congratulations! Your images are absolutely superb and your conclusion was correct.
FAMILY: Tritoniidae
COMMON NAME: 'Mosaic marionia '
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Marionia* sp.
REMARKS: There are at least 16 similar looking undescribed species of Marionia known throughout the Indo Pacific and it appears that yours is one of them!

Hi Neville,
Here is a creature I've been unable to identify. The location was Similan Islands, 01 January 2011 on a night dive. The diameter was around 10cm, it was at 10 metres deep and the image was taken on a Fujifilm Finepix F31fd.
Warm regards from Solomon Islands
Julian Arenas Mahe

Hi Julian,
Many thanks for your submission. Congratulations, I have only ever seen this critter once before.
FAMILY: Velutinidae
COMMON NAME: Jay's lamellarid
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Coriocella jayi*

REMARKS: Distributed across the Indo-Pacific but rarely seen, and then only on night dives. It grows to around 70 to 100 mm and is thought to feed on ascidians.

Hi Neville,
Thank you very much for getting back to us, here's a cropped copy. Cheers, Shane Mackay

Dear Shane, That makes it a bit easier.
Poor Knights Nudi:
FAMILY: Zephyrinidae
COMMON NAME: NZ 'janolus'
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: '*Janolus*' sp.
REMARKS: It appears to be of this genus, but I'm not able to see enough detail to go with a definite answer.
Nudi Wheeler Reef:
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Brock's mordilla
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Moridilla brochii*
REMARKS: Known across the Indo-Pacific, this species grows to 40 mm and feeds on hydroids.

Hi Neville,
This flatworm is unusual for Port Stephens, NSW. Taken at Fly Point. Is it *Pseudoceros rubroanus*?
Thanks, Kate Tinson

Dear Kate,
Many thanks for your excellent image. You are correct on your determination and I would think it is certainly an unusual find for Port Stephens, as this is a tropical species. I did not record it there on any of my dives in the area in the early years.
FAMILY: Pseudocerotidae
COMMON NAME: Ruby pseudoceros flatworm
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pseudoceros rubroanus*
REMARKS: Grows to around 30 mm and is found in Indonesia, the Philippines and on the Great Barrier Reef. Now we have your record from Port Stephens. Congratulations, it is far from common anywhere!

ID CRISIS

Neville Coleman
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Dear Neville,
I've checked several books and could not ID these creatures. I saw all on a shallow reef off a mangrove shore around 1 to 2 m depth.
Pic 1: is it a sponge (of what kind?
Pic 2: About 3 cm long (is it a juvenile goby or blenny?)
Pic 3: About 9 cm long (is it dragonet or blenni?). It looks like between leafy or algae dragonet.
Pic 4: I have not seen this nudibranch before. It is approximately 10 cm long.
Thank you for your help.
Regards, Astawa, Bali


Pic 1


Pic 2


Pic 3


Pic 4

Dear Astawa,
I can understand you sending these species, they are rarely figured in identification guides and not easy to determine.
Pic 1 FAMILY: Phloeodictyidae
COMMON NAME: Puffball sponge
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Oceanapia sagittaria*
Found across the Indo-Pacific in sandy, silty lagoons and protected sheltered habitats. Grows to around 80 mm in height.

Pic 2 FAMILY: Gobiidae
COMMON NAME: ?
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: ?
REMARKS: I have never seen this fish before and am unable to determine its identity from the references I have available.

Pic 3
FAMILY: Callionymidae
COMMON NAME: 'Tentacular' dragonet
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: '*Anaora tentaculata*'
REMARKS: I have never seen this fish before. Neither am I able to find a visual reference to it with the exact spots on the rear of the dorsal fin. However, it appears to be this genus and it is very close to this species.

Pic 4 Beautiful specimen, your shots have come out very nicely and make it easy to identify.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Sinuate ceratosoma
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Ceratosoma sinuatum*
REMARKS: Known across the Indo-Pacific this species grows to 60 mm and feeds on sponges.

Thank you all for sharing your critter finds with us. We try to publish as many contributions as possible, but we can't ID or print out-of-focus or lo-res images. PLEASE ONLY SEND CLEARLY RECOGNISABLE SUBJECTS IN THE BIGGEST FILE SIZE POSSIBLE.

Please include locality, date, depth, habitat, size, camera system, name of photographer and/or discoverer. Your submission advises permission to publish. Submissions received will assume image copyright belongs to the contributor unless otherwise stated in writing.

Submissions and enquiries:
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Attention Neville Coleman
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