

The task of civilisation is to protect us against nature – Sigmund Freud



### editorial

Gremlins found their way into the Baba memorial issue. The list of Baba's publications end at 1993 and the ones from 1988 are repeated. I will endeavour to locate the full list and print it shortly. Below are the papers Julie Marshall was able to find.

**Baba, K. 1994.** Descriptions of four new, rare, or unrecorded species of *Hypselodoris* (Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae) from Japan. *Venus* 53(3): 175-187.

**Baba, K. 1995.** Anatomical and taxonomical review of four blue patterned species of *Hypselodoris* (Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae) from Japan. *Venus* 54(1): 1-15.

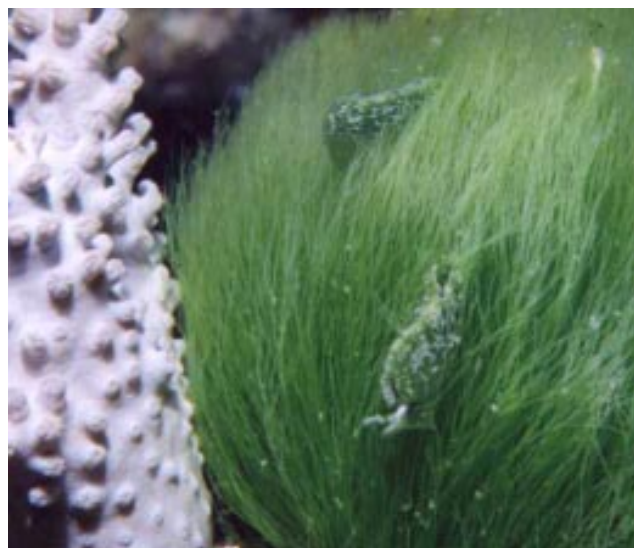
**Baba, K. 1996a.** Taxonomical change for *Gymnodoris striata* of Baba, 1937 (Nudibranchia: Gymnodorididae) from Amakusa, with a re-description based on some additional specimens from Toyama Bay, Japan. *Venus* 55(2): 91-95.

**Baba, K. 1996b.** Description of a new species of *Cadlinella* (Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae) from Japan. *Venus* 55(4): 265-271.

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# readers nudibranchs

This month's contributions  
are from Alison Smith &  
Teri Allen



Alison Smith from Brisbane, Australia sent these  
images of:

1 - 2. *C. lochi*

3-5 A possibly undescribed *saccoglossan*, *Elysia*  
*sp.*



Terri Allen from Melbourne Australia sent these images of *Tambja verconis* (right) and the undescribed *Flabellina* (below) taken in Port Philip Bay, Victoria. Notice the other small aeolid above *Flabellina* sp. This animal seems to be common in southern Australian during January. More on it next issue.



# nudibranchs



**miquel  
pontes**

## ***Marionia blainvillea***

First described by Risso in 1818, *Marionia blainvillea* has an elongated body which is almost square in section, and that may reach 5 cm and even 9 cm in length when the animal is adult. Juveniles often are coloured translucent white or violet, while adults are usually coloured dark red with white spots, but translucent red with white spots coloration patterns have been found as well.

This nudibranch belongs to the Tritoniidae family, and share common traits with the other members of the group. On the border of the dorsum there are 10 to 12 pairs of ramified appendices. Oral veil is bilobulate and has many digits or elongations. Rhinophores are arborescent and enclosed in a sheath, this trait is so characteristic to this group that are described as *tritonid* rhinophores.

According to Jean Pierre Bielecki observations <sup>(2)</sup>, the dorsum is covered with low bumps, each outlined with a darker line which forms a network over the body.

*Marionia blainvillea* lives primarily on shallow silty bottoms but also on deeper rocky bottoms, in a habitat known as coralligen –where corals grow–.

In Spanish coasts it is almost invariably associated to *Alcyonium palmatum* and *Alcyonium acaule* soft corals; despite this presumed stable association, *Marionia blainvillea* is reported to prey as well on

*Eunicella cavolinii*, *Eunicella singularis*, *Eunicella sp.*, *Leptogorgia sarmentosa* and *Paramuricea clavata* <sup>(1)</sup>.

In our own observations, we have recorded juveniles on *Leptogorgia sarmentosa* (Esper, 1789) orange gorgonians and at least an adult has been recorded feeding on *Maasella edwardsii* octocorallian in France <sup>(2)</sup>. It is discussed whether those nudibranchs change their feeding habits while growing up, or if these feeding habits are not as specialized as it is generally assumed.

Adults are primarily of nocturnal habits, hiding under rocks and in crevices for protection during the day, but in some places where murky water is the norm, they can be found also under daylight.

This species is considered to be endemic –exclusive- of the Mediterranean Sea.

When disturbed, *Marionia blainvillea* drops its fixation to the substrate it's found on and tries to escape in a "Spanish dancer" like swimming style.

The etymology suggests that the gender name *Marionia* is dedicated to Antoine-Fortuné Marion (1846-1900), French zoologist and teacher at Marseille's University (France). The species name *blainvillea* is dedicated to Henri Marie Ducrotay de Blainville (1778-1850), teacher at the Paris Museum (France).





More Information and pictures can be found in the following web sites:

- **A List of the Worldwide Food Habits of Nudibranchs** <http://people.ucsc.edu/~mcduck/nudifood.htm>
- **Seaslug Forum** <http://www.seaslugforum.net/mariblai.htm>
- **M@re Nostrum** <http://marenostrum.org/opistobranquios/marionia>
- **Medslugs** [http://www.medslugs.de/E/Mediterranean/Marionia\\_blainvillea.htm](http://www.medslugs.de/E/Mediterranean/Marionia_blainvillea.htm)
- **Opistobranquios de Granada** [http://www.ugr.es/~lstocino/pagina\\_nueva\\_4.htm](http://www.ugr.es/~lstocino/pagina_nueva_4.htm)



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© Pictures: Lluís Aguilar, Jean-Pierre Bielecki, Daniel Cruells and Josep Lluís Peralta



**julie  
marshall**

Heron Island is a coral cay situated in the Capricorn Bunker Group of the Great Barrier Reef about 64 km offshore from the Queensland port city of Gladstone.



#### Nudibranchs of the Reef Crest: Family Chromodorididae (4) – Other genera

A description of the characteristics of the reef crest at Heron Island appeared in the November 2001 issue. In previous months I have featured some of the members of the genera, *Chromodoris*, *Glossodoris* and *Hypselodoris* found in this area. This month it is some of the other genera of the family Chromodorididae which are found under dead coral slabs at the reef crest at low tide. Other species are also found at the reef crest but because they are more common subtidally, they will be covered with animals of that habitat.

#### **Durvilledoris lemniscata (Quoy & Gaimard, 1832)**

This small Chromodorid is one of the most strikingly coloured of the animals found in this area. The mantle has a lilac background with a broad longitudinal whitish cream line in the centre of the mantle running from between the rhinophores back to the gills. On each side of this band is a dark red line, then a pale orange brown band, and then another dark red line. The margin bears a broad creamish band. The tail is lilac, and both the rhinophores and gills have lilac tips. Although larger specimens have been found, most adults range from 15 to 20 mm in size, with the pictured animal being 15 mm.



#### **Mexichromis festiva (Angas, 1864)**

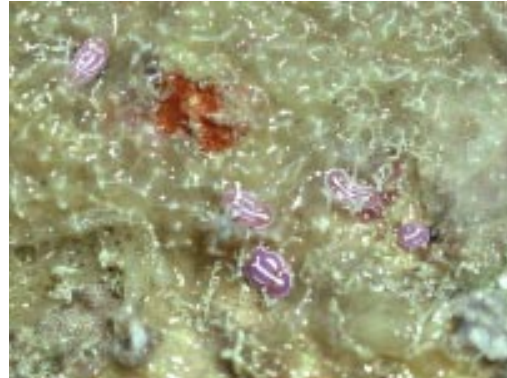
*Mexichromis festiva* has generally been considered endemic to New South Wales, and Heron Island seems to be northern limit for this species. It is another small species with all the animals found ranging from 13 to 15 mm. The mantle is opaque white with numerous reddish-purple spots which are flat or on very slightly raised humps. There is a continuous (most often) or interrupted golden band round the margin of the mantle. The foot is white with a pale purple band. *M. festiva* is very similar to *M. mariei* which is widespread in the tropical Pacific, but it has more pointed tubercles on the mantle.



### ***Pectenodoris trilineata* (A.Adams & Reeve, 1850)**

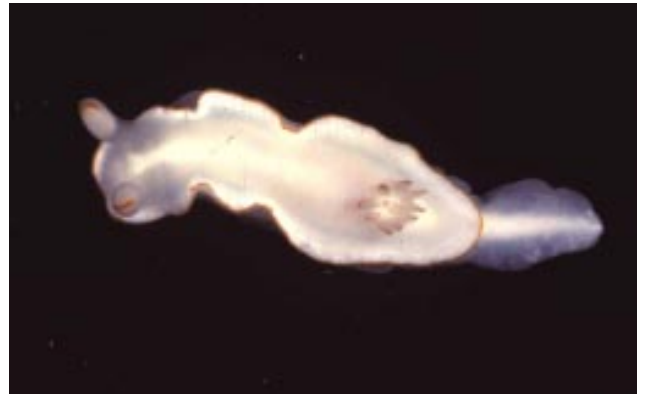
This is probably the most common species found on Heron Reef. Although it seldom grows larger than 8 mm its bright colours make it easily recognisable. It is almost always found on (or burrowed within) a blue or white siliceous sponge belonging to the genus *Dysidea* (see second photo). Usually one to five animals are found on a single sponge but sometimes large numbers can be present – on one occasion I found over 50 on one sponge ranging from minute animals to ones of the usual size, some piled one on top of each other.

The mantle of *P. trilineata* is lilac-blue with a narrow, white marginal line and three parallel, longitudinal white lines (hence the name *trilineata* or three-lined). The central line is longest and encircles the gill pocket. It usually has some small yellow streaks on the white line. The outer lines are shorter and occasionally can be absent. The foot is also lilac-blue with a narrow, white marginal line. Both the rhinophores and gills are pale orange.



### ***Thorunna furtiva* Bergh, 1878**

Another small species with most adults ranging from 10 to 15 mm although animals up to 25 mm have been recorded. The mantle is uniformly opaque white with a thin orange marginal band. The rhinophores are white and have orange streaks up both axes. The gills are also white with orange streaks up their outer edges.



### ***Thorunna halourga* Johnson & Gosliner, 2001**

This recently described species was called *Thorunna* sp. 1 in Marshall & Willan (1999). As well as Heron Island, this animal has been found in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Lord Howe Island (as *Thorunna* sp.) Coleman (2001). It is another small species with the largest animal so far recorded measuring 12 mm. The mantle is pale lilac flushing to purple in front of the rhinophores and behind the gills. The mantle margin, which is slightly undulate, has a broad white band. The rhinophores have a purple stalk and the lamellae on the clavus are edged with orange. The gills are white with orange axes.



Coleman, N. 2001. 1001 Nudibranchs: catalogue of Indo-Pacific sea slugs. *Springwood, Qld, Neville Coleman's Underwater Geographic Pty Ltd.*

Johnson, R.F. & Gosliner, T.M. 2001. Two new species of *Thorunna* Bergh 1878 (Mollusca: Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae) from the Indo-pacific. *Bollettino Malacologico* 37(5-8): 143-150.

Marshall, J.G. & Willan, R.C. 1999. Nudibranchs of Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef: a survey of the Opisthobranchia (Sea Slugs) of Heron and Wistari Reefs. *Leiden, Backhuys Publishers.*

# book review



**dave  
behrens**

## **Critters - Mysterious Twilight Zone by Monique Walker. 2000.**

Monique Walker's "Critters - Mysterious Twilight Zone" takes the concept of the underwater coffee table book to the next level. Monique presents a wonderful collection of underwater photos of unique and cryptic species found after twilight, in a new artistic and innovative format. From page to page each species is presented in one of many abstract and graphical imagery techniques employing computer graphics, reverse imagery, acrylic reproduction, as well as, a number of other state of the art artistic formats.

Monique's two page spreads of each species often use repetition of imagery to draw your attention to a particular characteristic of a species, which is not only of importance to the species identification, but of a particularly visually appealing nature. I guess her innovative approach is like the creation of a ballet from your everyday walk in the park. So many underwater art books today contain beautiful photographs to drool over.

Monique presents hers with the background accompaniment of both new age mood and classical bravado and a mix of the brush strokes of Pollock and spatial layout Mondrian. My enthusiasm for this outside the box, refreshing presentation of underwater scenes we are familiar with, is echoed in the number of prestigious photographic and publishing awards the book has received since its release.

Highly recommended for those looking for something new and different.

9 3/4" x 12"

143 pages, Hardcover

Over 100 beautiful color photographic layouts

\$79.00 USD

