

australasian nudibranch NEWS



No.2 October 1998



Chromodoris decora (Pease, 1860)

This beautiful nudibranch is common on the Sunshine Coast, especially at Point Cartwright most of the year. Like *Noumea simplex* mentioned last issue it is found at low tide under rocks. To date I have not found it in the open during the day. It feeds on a dark grey/black encrusting sponge. Dr Bill Rudman mentioned it has been seen on the same coloured sponge in the Red Sea.

Maximum reported length is 16mm & is common throughout the Indo-Pacific & in Australia extends into NSW. The egg mass is pale yellow.

C. decora can be identified by the three narrow vivid white lines extending down the mantle. These lines bifurcate in front of the gills. The simple gills, foot & rhinophores are white.

The inner part of the mantle is pale fawn & margin vermilion with white streaks at the edges. There is a ring of purple spots between the inner & outer parts of the margin.

References:

Willan & Coleman 1984 – Nudibranchs of Australasia. #71.

Wells & Bryce 1993 – Sea Slugs of Western Australia #143

Debilius 1996 – Nudibranchs & Sea Snails page 206 top



Editorial

This issue has an article on the red spotted nudibranchs of eastern Australian. Richard Willan kindly sent an updated list of names for the **Nudibranchs of Australasia**, Willan and Coleman 1984. This is still a valuable reference.

Sorry to those of you who tried to print a copy of issue one in the USA. This issue is in letter format, so you will have no problem printing it.

Thank you to all of you who offered assistance, encouragement and are considering hosting the newsletter at your sites. Steve Long was the first to add anNEWS to his site. I hope this newsletter can become a valuable asset to everyone with an interest in Australasian nudibranchs.

Some of you may be aware that anNEWS and Steve Long's Opisthobranch Newsletter were to combine. This does not appear to be going ahead at this time, therefore anNEWS will continue to be emailed to you or can be downloaded from our website shortly. Your ongoing feedback, interesting discoveries and input will be appreciated.

Can you help?

Irina Roginskaya (irina7@hotmail.com) from Russia is interested to hear about the direction of nudibranch spiral spawns in southern hemisphere.

Ed. Irina has prepared an article for the next issue.

Magdalena Caretti (fcaretti@tournet.com.ar) from Buenos Aires, Argentina requires information on defences in nudibranchs.

Richard Willan requires information on *Polycera capensis* in Australia. See (<http://www.austmus.gov.au/science/division/invert/mal/forum/polycap.htm#252>) for more information.

My own web site is now up and running.

Visit to learn about Kinesiology, Robyn's new book, "Word Power", Nudibranchs and more.

Wayne & Robyn's homepage <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~glaskin>

X-files

Send your unidentified beasts & they will be included to see if anyone can identify them.

Steve Grail turned these two up off Mooloolaba, Sunshine Coast in 10-20m. Figure 1 is probably *Noumea*? Figure 2 could be *Madrella ferruginosa* Alder & Hancock, 1864 or *M. sanguinea* (Angas, 1864). What do you suggest?



fig. 1



fig. 2

In Review

The red spotted group of eastern Australian Chromodorids.



Fig. 1 *C. splendida*
Photo: Steve Grail.



Fig. 2 *C. splendida*
Photo: Steve Grail.



Fig. 3 *C. splendida*
Photo: Steve Grail.



Fig. 4 *H. bennetti*
Photo: Wayne Ellis.



Fig. 5 *C. hunteri*
Photo: Wayne Ellis.

Several red spotted chromodorids are to be found on Australia's east coast, some endemic, others found throughout the Indo-Pacific. There are three body colours in this group; white, pink, blue. At first glance it is easy to mis-identify these species. Outlined below is a general guide to the most common species that occur between Mooloolaba, southern Queensland & the southern New South Wales border. *C. tumulifera* Collingwood, 1881, would fit into this group except it does not occur any further south than the Great Barrier Reef.

The main species in this group are:

Chromodoris splendida (Angas, 1864) is easy to spot, with its milk white mantle, gold border & red spot or spots. The rhinophore stalk is translucent white, the club is red with white edging on the lamellae. There are 9 to 12 simple gills, quadrangular in shape, white with a red line running up each corner. As you can see in *fig 1, 2 & 3* each animal is unique. Some have no red spots at all. The specimen in *fig.3* is orange in colour, yet still considered *C. splendida*. This colour variation occurs on the Sunshine Coast, especially on the reefs off Mooloolaba, Qld. The change in spot size was observed at Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia. Specimens in the northern part of the range tend towards single patches or larger spots than specimens in the southern end of the range.

Chromodoris hunteri (Rudman, 1983) has a white mantle with a translucent border & a submarginal, sometimes irregular & broken yellow band. Small bright irregular sized red spots cover the mantle. The rhinophores & gills are white (*fig 5*).

Chromodoris fidelis (Kelaart, 1858) found at Coffs Harbour have a white body, red blotches & black gills & rhinophores. This differs from the "normal" description of *C. fidelis*. Carol Buchanan of Coffs Harbour, NSW has photographs of this colour variation.

Chromodoris daphne (Angas, 1864) has a white mantle bordered with narrow concentric dull red & brilliant yellow bands. Small dull red spots cover the mantle. The rhinophore stalk is translucent & the club is dull red topped with a translucent white tip. There is up to nine simple gill which can be red or a pale washed out colour.

Chromodoris tasmaniensis Bergh, 1905 has three colour forms; NSW, Victorian & Tasmanian. The NSW form fits the region covered in this article. Specimens have a white mantle with large distinctly red or pale orange markings. The rhinophores are translucent white with a red or orange edge to the rhinophore pocket. The 6–14 simple gills are white with red streaks up the inner & outer axes.

Noumea haliclona (Burn, 1957) has two colour variations; NSW & Victorian. Again I will use the NSW specimens (*fig. 6-7*). The mantle is white to deep pink with irregular red or deep orange spots & there is a yellow or orange-yellow submarginal band (sometimes absent). The margin is translucent with a very fine red line (sometimes absent) often broken with fine red specks. The rhinophores are translucent white or pink with orange-red markings on the lamellae on the upper one-third & on the front of the rhinophore. The gills are translucent white or pink.

Hypselodoris bennetti (Angas, 1864) has a blue mantle with red spots which are largest in the centre of the back (*fig. 4*). The mantle is bordered by a golden-yellow band which is sometimes impinged by red spots. The rhinophores are pale blue with a magenta streak on the front axes or are uniformly magenta. The 8-10 simple gills are pinkish with magenta streaks.

I have prepared a key (see page 3) to assist to identify this group. Try it out & see how it works.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Bill Rudman & Richard Willan for their assistance with identification & ongoing support.

References.

- Rudman. W.B. 1983. The Chromodorididae (Opisthobranchia: Mollusca) of the Indo-Pacific: *Chromodoris splendida*, *C. aspersa* and *Hypselodoris placida* colour groups Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society (1983) **78**: 105-173
- Rudman.W.B. 1991. Purpose in Pattern: The Evolution of Colour in Chromodorid Nudibranchs J.Moll.Stud. (1991), **57**, 5-21 T.E. Thompson Memorial Issue
- Willan & Coleman 1984 Nudibranchs of Australasia
- Solitary Island Underwater Research Group 1988 SIURG identification card no.6



Fig. 6 *N. haliclona*
Photo: Wayne Ellis.

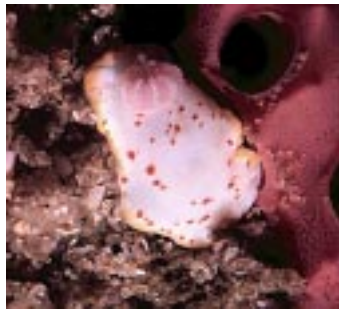


Fig. 7 *N. haliclona*
Photo: Wayne Ellis.

Eastern Australian Red Spot Chromodorid Key:

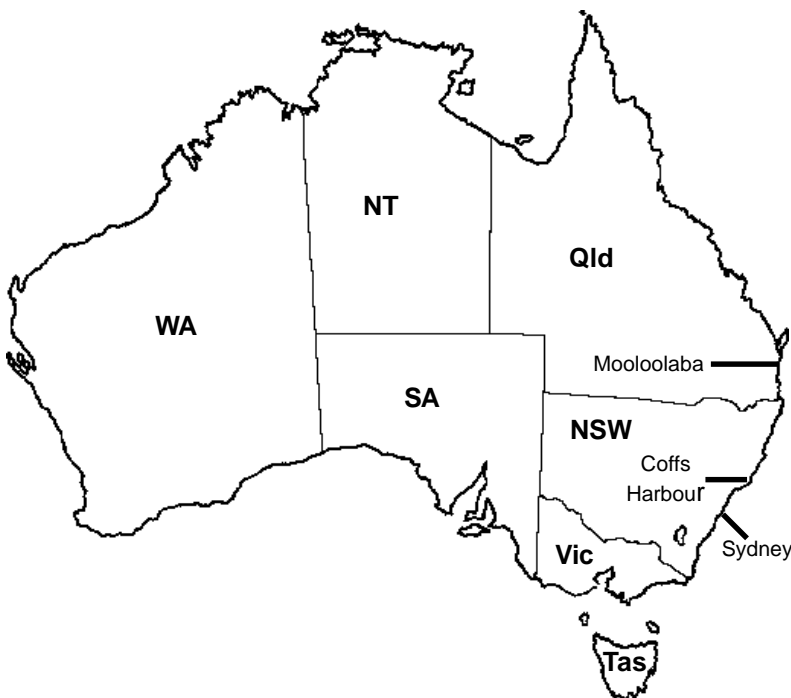
1. (a) Body white **2**
 (b) Body pink **3**
 (c) Body blue **5**

2. (a) Spots absent **3**
 (b) Spots bright red **3**
 (c) Spots dull red/orange **3**

3. (a) Mantle border golden *Chr. splendida*
 (b) Mantle border yellow **4**
 (c) Mantle border red with sub marginal yellow band *Chr. daphne*
 (d) Mantle border translucent with submarginal yellow band *Chr hunteri*
 (e) Mantle border translucent with very fine red line **4**
 (f) Mantle border same colour as mantle *Chr. tasmaniensis*

4. (a) Rhinophores black *Chr. fidelis* (Coffs Harbour colour variation)
 (b) Rhinophores pink or white with orange/red markings *Noumea haliclona*

5. (a) Gills pink/magenta streaks *Hyselodoris bennetti*



Feedback

A column for readers to share finds, new sightings information or just have your say.

G'Day Again,
Nikon has a worldwide recall on the Nikonos SB-103 Strobe?

Evidently in the US they've had a couple build-up pressure (probably from out-gassing Nicads???) & blow the front lens assembly out. Nikon decided on a recall to replace all 103 bodies with the newer SB-105 body.

I am sending mine off to Maxwell Photo in Sydney tomorrow - I'll keep you posted.

Bill Chambers chambers@fastlink.com.au

Wayne:

Great site! It is fantastic to see so much great stuff on the internet.

Please add me to your list of PDF recipients for your newsletter. The only comment -- some people cannot handle the PDF documents.

Best of luck!

Steve Long SteveLong@seaslug.com

Dear Wayne,

Thank you for sending a copy of Australasian Nudibranch News. I was very impressed and would like to be included on the mailing list. I am busy writing up my PhD at the moment but hopefully I will have some time to contribute next year!

Cheers,

Kirsten Benkendorff kb06@uow.edu.au

Wayne

Great newsletter! Looking forward to next issue! Happy slugging;

Mike mdmiller@cts.com

Wayne:

I just opened your .PDF file on Australasian Nudibranchs. Nice and clean, I like the format. Please keep me on your mailing list.

Cheers

bob bolland@imicom.or.jp

Wayne:

Great job. And now I know what Myja is.

Thanks again,

Dave seachalleng@earthlink.net

Dear Wayne

I have had a look at "Australasian nudibranch news" and found it most interesting and informative, especially the page on *Myja longicornis*. From the photo it does indeed look like *Bornella stillifer*. I will search for it when I am back at Heron Island in November.

Cheers

Julie J.Marshall@latrobe.edu.au

Name Changes

Nudibranchs of Australasia – Willan & Coleman 1984.

Here is the list of changes to names appearing in "Nudibranchs of Australasia". The list is arranged by species number and those names are listed here that have been either changed, or re-identified, or newly described scientifically since publication of the book. Much new information on biology, diet, size and geographic range for Australasian nudibranchs has also come to light over the same time period.

6. *Kaloplocamus acutus* Baba, 1955
11. *Nembrotha livingstonei* Allan, 1933
12. *Nembrotha lineolata* Bergh, 1905
13. *Nembrotha purpureolineata* O'Donoghue, 1924
17. *Ceratosoma amoena* (Cheeseman, 1886)
37. *Chromodoris aspersa* (Gould, 1852)
38. *Mexichromis festiva* (Angas, 1864)
42. *Chromodoris collingwoodi* Rudman, 1987
44. *Mexichromis macropus* Rudman, 1983
45. *Chromodoris kuniei* Pruvot-Fol, 1930
46. *Risbecia tryoni* (Garrett, 1873)
48. *Dijidentis perplexa* (Burn, 1957)
49. *Risbecia godeffroyana* (Bergh, 1879)
50. *Chromodoris cf. roboi* Gosliner & Behrens, 1998
53. *Chromodoris aureopurpurea* Collingwood, 1881
58. *Chromodoris elisabethina* Bergh, 1877
63. *Hypselodoris cf. nigrostriata* (Eliot, 1904)
65. *Pectenodoris trilineata* (A. Adams & Reeve, 1850)
66. *Noumea alboannulata* Rudman, 1988
67. *Hypselodoris bullockii* (Collingwood, 1881)
72. *Hypselodoris maculosa* (Pease, 1871)
73. *Chromodoris epicuria* (Basedow & Hedley, 1905)
74. *Glossodoris rufomarginata* (Bergh, 1890)
75. *Ardeadoris egretta* Rudman, 1984
77. *Glossodoris atromarginata* (Cuvier, 1804)
78. *Glossodoris rubroannulata* Rudman, 1986
79. *Glossodoris cincta* (Bergh, 1888)
80. *Glossodoris vespa* Rudman, 1990
81. *Glossodoris stellata* Rudman, 1986
83. *Ceratosoma gracillimum* Semper in Bergh, 1873
84. *Ceratosoma trilobatum* (J.E. Gray, 1827)
101. *Rostanga calumus* Rudman & Avern, 1989
108. *Discodoris fragilis* (Alder & Hancock, 1864)
112. *Discodoris cf. mauritiana* (Bergh, 1889)
120. *Halgerda willeyi* Eliot, 1903
131. *Phyllidiella pustulosa* (Cuvier, 1804)
132. *Fryeria marindica* (Yonow & Hayward, 1991)
134. *Flabellina bicolor* (Kelaart, 1858)
136. *Potoaeolidiella juliae* (Burn, 1966)
139. *Berghia major* Eliot, 1903
148. *Phestilla melanobranchia* Bergh, 1874
153. *Phyllodesmium serratum* (Baba, 1949)
161. *Bornella stellifer* (A. Adams & Reeve in A. Adams, 1848)
162. *Bornella anguilla* Johnson, 1983
164. *Tritoniopsis alba* (Baba, 1949)

Richard C. Willan
23rd September 1998

Contacts

Web Sites

[Mike Miller's Slug Site](#)

a great reference site. A must see
[Australian Museum's Sea Slug Forum](#)
Bill Rudman's site

[The Okinawa Slug Site](#)

Another site to visit regularly
[Sherif's Malaysian Slug Site](#)

A site for Malaysian nudibranchs

[New Zealand Nudibranch Site](#)

Ian Skipworth's site

[Steve Long's Opisthobranch Site](#)

Don't miss this page, great links.

[Photos by Wayne Ellis](#)

Erwin Kohler provides space for my photos

[Bernard Picton's Home Page](#)

Great nudibranch information section

[Mediterranean Slug Site](#)

Erwin Kohler's Site

[German Slug Site](#)

Wolfgang Seifarth site

[Bibliographia Nudibranchia](#)

Gary McDonalds nudibranch database site

Books on the Web

[Capricornica Publication](#)

Patty Jansen's natural history book site

[Sea Challengers](#)

Dave & Diana Behren's marine books site

[Mountain, Oceans & Travel Publications](#)

Barry Andrewartha & Belinda Barne's Sport
Diving magazine site

[Oceans Enterprises](#)

Peter Stone's diving related book site

Requests

Hello,

My name is Daniella Anderson and I live at 81 Aurora Drive Tregear Mt Druitt and I am a year five student at Noumea Primary School. I think that I have found some *Meridolum corneoviren* snails in the backyard underneath the woodpile, I have some inside as pets, I hope this is okay. I just wanted to let you know.
yours

Daniella Anderson

cassie@iform.com.au

Ed. *Anyone able to help Daniella with her land snails?*

Published by Wayne Ellis

P O Box 3

Glasshouse Mountains

Qld 4518 Australia

Ph. + 61 7 5493 0040

Email: glaskin@ozemail.com.au