

australasian nudibranch NEWS

No.7 March 1999



Hypselodoris emma Rudman, 1977

Hypselodoris emma has been recorded throughout the Indo-West Pacific. Along the Australian east coast specimens has been recorded from the Great Barrier Reef, The Sunshine Coast in Queensland & Coffs Harbour in NSW.

To quote Dr Bill Rudman, "The body is a pale cream or yellow with a purple or bluish border to both the foot and the mantle. There are three purple longitudinal lines on the mantle and four brownish lines which vary in intensity in different individuals. The gills and rhinophores are a brilliant reddish orange and in Pacific specimens there is a white tip to the rhinophores".

H. emma belongs with a group of purple striped species which needs further review. See *Hypselodoris maridadilus* and *Hypselodoris whitei* (= *Hypselodoris mouaci*) at the Australian Museum's Slug Site.

Reference:

Rudman, W.B. (1977) *Chromodorid opisthobranch Mollusca from East Africa and the tropical West Pacific. Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 61: 351-397.

Rudman, W.B. (1999) *Pers. comm*

Buchanan, Carol (1989) *A reference list of Opisthobranch Molluscs from the Solitary Islands and adjacent coastline. Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group.*



Hypselodoris emma on soft coral at the Gneering Reefs, Mooloolaba, Sth Qld.
© 1999 Steve Grail

Editor's notes

With a real *wet season* this year, nudibranchs have been hard to find. Diving conditions have been less than perfect as well. The "wet" has allowed me to finally add a Nudibranch of the Month page to my site. This month's feature is *Ceratosoma brevicaudum*. (<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~glaskin/month.htm>).

Steve Grail, a local diver and shell collector managed to turn up a new sighting for the area, *Hypselodoris emma* (featured this page) on New Year's Day.

Mike Miller & Dave Behrens both pointed me to the Linnean Society's web site (see page 2), which may be of value to you as well.

I've been watching with interest the postings to the Australian Museums Slug Site from Project Wallacea. On page 3 you can see some of the achievements of this great project. Click on the logo and visit their site.

In the last issue it could have been misinterpreted that all issues of the Opisthobranch Newsletter are on-line. *This is not the case*. Back issues are available from Steve Long and subscriptions are now due for this year. [Visit Steve's site](http://www.seaslug.com) (<http://www.seaslug.com>) for details.

Another interesting site to visit is Gordon Smith's, [The Shark Cage](http://www.angelfire.com/mi/sharkcage69/index.html). (<http://www.angelfire.com/mi/sharkcage69/index.html>) The site has a Nudibranch of the Month feature and a guest page. Gordon has a photo on his Phyllidiidae page he needs help to identify. What do you think it is?

Reading through Terry Gosliner's 1999 paper (see page 2) on *Hypselodoris* I came across some interesting information:

The young of *Hypselodoris bennetti*, (endemic to the NSW coast, Australia), are direct developers.

Hypselodoris infucata shown in West Australian Sea Slugs (#139) is probably an undescribed species.

Finally [Dr Rhanor Gillette's lab site](http://www.life.uiuc.edu/slucity) : (<http://www.life.uiuc.edu/slucity>) has movies of opisthobranchs. The site is still very much under construction.

Okinawa Slug Site

Bob Bolland has recently given his site a face lift and moved it to a new location <http://rfbolland.com/okislugs>.

This site is dedicated to the study of the Opisthobranch Molluscs of Okinawa's subtropical Western Pacific waters. It includes images of Okinawan specimens, a nudibranch of the week page, information on the island, photography and links to other useful sites and resources. A taxonomic list of the Okinawan Opisthobranch Molluscs is included along with a short physical and climatic description of Okinawa and its parental island group, the Ryukyus Archipelago. An interactive map viewer of Okinawa showing the island's physical location within Asia, as well as an interactive map viewer showing storms anywhere in the world is worth a look.

Some of the environmental problems associated with the local marine environment in this part of the Western Pacific is discussed.

This site should be permanently bookmarked and visited each week to see what new species has been added.

The Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society.

www.academicpress.com/zoojls

To view the abstract for *Phylogeny of *Hypselodoris* (Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae) with a review of the monophyletic clade of Indo-Pacific species, including descriptions of twelve new species. **Terrence M. Gosliner, Rebecca F. Johnson. p1-114 (ID zjls.1997.0148)**

Click on Europe or America
Click on Guest
Click on Current issue (GO)
Click "Next" when you get to the Feb issue index.



* This new work provides an account of the systematics and phylogeny of *Hypselodoris*. Aspects of the morphology of 42 species are described and the systematic status of an additional 11 species is discussed. Twelve new species are described *Hypselodoris alboterminata*, *H. bertschi*, *H. bollandi*, *H. fucata*, *H. iacula*, *H. insulana*, *H. krakatoa*, *H. paulinae*, *H. reidi*, *H. rudmani*, *H. violabanchia* and *H. zephyra*.

Feedback

Here are two nudibranchs that I photographed in the Solomon Islands and have not been able to identify. They were on the wreck called BONEGI ONE, (Hirokawa Maru) - one of three WW2 Japanese armed transports run into the beach after being hit by U.S. dive bombers on 15th November 1942 on the Island of Guadalcanal. An overall length of 152m/508ft. Now lying with her bow in 3m/10ft, her stern in 55m/180ft.

[Noel Taylor](mailto:ntaylor@dial1.net) (ntaylor@dial1.net)



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The *Phyllodesmium* sp. was seen once at 21m, but mainly around the 42m area. Size: 10-30mm Date: June -Sept 1992 and Sept 1993. They were found around what they call organ pipe coral, 21-42m Specimens given to Bill Rudman (Australian Museum) in October 1993.

The ?*Tambja* sp. was seen in 20m on the wreck. Size: 30mm - 50mm. Date: June -Sept 1992 and Sept 1993. Seen at different areas around the 15m - 20m depth. Specimens given to Bill Rudman (Australian Museum) in October 1993.



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RE: *Halgerda cf carlsoni* in Sea Slugs of West Australia

Plate 129 is similar to *Halgerda carlsoni*. The animal on plate 129 will have to be dissected for the internal anatomy – and that compared to *H. carlsoni*. Presently, I think Terry Gosliner has some *H. carlsoni* material from near the type locality (Fiji). Once this material is described and if there is material from *Halgerda* '129' then the truth will be known.

There is a 'carlsoni-like' *Halgerda* from Okinawa as well as an orange dotted/dusted form from Yap. These two both appear more similar externally to the *carlsoni* originally described by Rudman than is *H. 129*.

[Clay Carlson](mailto:clay.carlson@kuentos.guam.net) (clay.carlson@kuentos.guam.net)

Once when I was working for Underwater World, Perth, I overheard a conversation as a grandmother was trying to point out something to her grandson in the Gastropod microworld tank . . .

G/Mother: James, James, come and look at this
James: [No response]
G/Mother: James, get over here and look
James: [Reluctantly moving to tank]
G/Mother Look James, that slug's got eyebrows!
[Sue Sargent](mailto:S.Sargent@burnett.qld.gov.au) (S.Sargent@burnett.qld.gov.au)

I am an employee at Fox Mill Pets in Reston Virginia. I have been told there is a type of nudibranch that will eat aptasia(spelling) anemones. I was wondering if anybody might be able to give me some common names and/or scientific names of some possible candidates. Thanks.

[Michael Ogburn](mailto:ogburnmt@idt.net) (ogburnmt@idt.net)

Review – Operation Wallacea

Operation Wallacea is a not-for-profit biodiversity project based on Pulau Hoga Island, part of the Tukangbesi archipelago, SE Sulawesi, Indonesia where paying volunteers have joined biologists to help complete species surveys of a newly created Marine National Park.

The project's achievements include:

Winning the Best Conservation Project in South East Asia Award in 1998 from ASEANTA.

Persuading the Indonesian Government to declare the whole Wakatobi archipelago as a Marine National park which is the second largest marine protected area in Indonesia.

Completed data gathering on coral cover of 600km of reef, estimated abundance of commercially exploited fish and relative biodiversity of various reefs using indicator species on over 1300km of dive transects, and surveyed fishing activity by the local community. These data have been used to develop a National Park Management Plan with the area divided into different usage zones (eg fish nursery areas, no fishing areas, traditional fishing zones, etc). The Management Plan and National Park Regulations are now being enforced by a 40 strong staff of Wildlife Rangers.

Started compiling a species database on CD Rom for the new National Park. To date over 1500 species have been photographed, identified and data gathered on their distribution, abundance and other features. 10% of the Nudibranch and Tunicate species described to date appear to be new to science and there are many others which are range extension records or geographical variations of previously described species.

Surveyed over 70% of 7500km² of rainforest for birds and mammals. Populations of 19 threatened (according to IUCN criteria) species of birds have been discovered including one species (Satanic Nightjar) thought to have been extinct since 1900. These data are being used to identify the best areas for protection as National Parks.

Developed sustainable activities for the local communities to replace income lost by abandoning activities such as bomb and cyanide fishing or collection of wild birds and animals for the pet trade. These activities include seaweed farming, open water fishing using fish attraction devices (as opposed to fishing the heavily exploited reef fish), the extraction of cinnamon oil from trees growing wild in the forest and ecotourism. The feasibility stage for all these activities have been completed and demonstration sites established. The next stage is to develop them on a commercial scale for the benefit of the local communities.

A selection of opisthobranchs sighted in this survey can be viewed at the [Australian Museum's Slug Site](#)
A species list can also [be viewed](#).



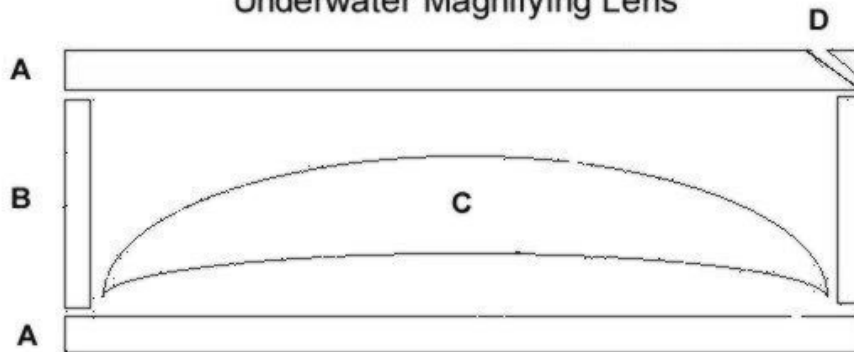
A Marine Scientist is required to join the survey on a 6 month contract.

Contact: [Dr Tim Coles](#)

Project Director

(tcoles@ecosurveys.win-uk.net)

Underwater Magnifying Lens



- A. Approximately 6mm thick perspex, cut round to cover top and bottom of tube.**
- B. Tube made of PVC pipe (3-4mm thick) approximately 60mm internal diameter. Height approx 15mm - or long enough to fit lens.**
- C. 60mm Diameter + 8D power CR39 optical lens from optometrist.**
- D. Small hole drilled at 45 degrees for lanyard (thick fishing line).**

Perspex is glued to top and bottom of tube with "Aquaseal" wetsuit repair glue. Allow 12 hours to dry. A few spots of glue around edge will keep lens in place.

David Atkinson.

[David Atkinson](#) contributed this sketch of an underwater magnifying glass.
(atkin@hunterlink.net.au)

Construction of the Clark sucker, a device for collection of small aquatic organisms can be found at [Dr Kerry Clark's site](#)
(<http://members.aol.com/metazoa/sucker/>)

Anyone else like to offer any useful tools for observing or collecting nudibranchs?

Pacific Coast Nudibranchs – A guide to the Opisthobranchs, Alaska to Baja California

2nd Edition Revised 1991 – David W. Behrens

112 pages – soft cover – full colour

180x230mm (7"x9")

Published by Sea Challengers Inc.

RRP \$42 (Aus) + postage

\$25.95 (US) + postage

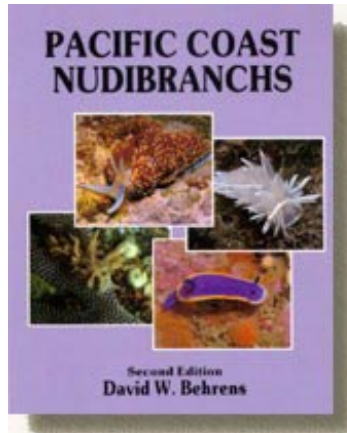
This guide covers the opisthobranchs in the North-East Pacific, from Alaska to Mexico along North America's west coast.

The natural history and general identification sections explain the general characteristics with line drawings of rhinophores, gills, etc. in some detail.

Two hundred and seventeen species are included in colour, each with a complete description, its range, maximum size and relevant ecological information.

Although the guide focuses on the North East Pacific it contains information useful to those serious about studying opisthobranchs.

Since being published in 1991 some of the information in this book has changed. Dave is presently compiling an errata which will be made available. A copy will be printed in anNEWS.



Available from:

USA

Dave and Diana Behrens

[Sea Challengers](http://www.seachallengers.com)

35 Versailles Court

Danville CA 94506-4454 USA

Email: seachallengers@earthlink.net

URL: <http://www.seachallengers.com/>

Australia

Check [Patty Jensen's](#) or [Peter Stone's](#) sites.

Europe

Contact [Sea Challengers](#) for details of European distributors.

Naturama

[Naturama](#) is a non-profit organization that deals as a bookseller in order to raise funds for research on marine biology in the Mediterranean and educational projects.

Naturama support: WWF-Italia, Società Italiana di Malacologia, Museo Malacologico di Menfi, Società Siciliana di Scienze Naturali and other minor organizations.

We spread twice a year a large catalogue (about 2,000 items) devoted to ancient, old, new and second hands books, papers or ephemera on malacology, marine biology and paleontology.

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Visit their web site at: <http://www.dada.net/naturama>

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 Nudibranch Site](#)

Great nudibranch information section

[Mediterranean Slug Site](#)

Erwin Kohler's Site

[German Slug Site](#)

Wolfgang Seifarth's site

[Bibliographia Nudibranchia](#)

Gary McDonald's nudibranch database site

Books on the Web

[Capricornica Publication](#)

Patty Jansen's natural history book site

[Sea Challengers](#)

Dave & Diana Behrens's marine books site

[Oceans Enterprises](#)

Peter Stone's diving related book site

[Coral Sea Imagery](#)

Books, videos and CD,s relating to the marine environment in Townsville Qld Aust.

anNEWS back issues

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