

1

Hi Neville,
Just had a great trip over to Western Australia and had a problem with the ID of these two species.
Seastar - Haven't seen one like this before, taken at Ningaloo Reef, 15 metres 13/4/06.
Waspfish - It looks like a cockatoo waspfish, but has more frills around the head - taken at Exmouth Navy Pier, 13 metres, 12/4/06.
All the best, Nigel Marsh

the shallows they generally live beneath dead coral slabs in in caves or darker areas during the day. Rarely seen in the open.
Pic 2
FAMILY: Aploactinidae
COMMON NAME: Bearded velvetfish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Paraploactis? intonsa?*
REMARKS: I have never seen this fish before and nothing in my extensive references appeared to fit it. I asked Rudie Kuitert what it could be? Rudie had never seen the fish before either and he says it took quite a while to track it down. This species has been recorded in Western Australia (probably from trawls) though it has only been listed from Shark Bay. According to Rudie it occurs inshore on soft bottom and is apparently quite rare.
So, Nigel, congratulations all round to you not recognising it as a published species. Apparently yours is the only known image of a live specimen. Excellent work!
Best wishes, Neville



2

Dear Nigel,
Thank you, I'm sure I can help.
Pic 1
FAMILY: Mithrodiidae
COMMON NAME: Nail-armed sea star
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Mithrodia clavigera*
REMARKS: Indo-Pacific species ranging to at least to Lord Howe Island in the South Pacific. It grows to 1 metre in size and is generally a nocturnal species, with larger specimens being found in deeper waters. In

Hi Neville,
I hope you can help us identify this little fellow found at 15 metres on a silty seabed in Gizo Harbour in the Solomon Islands. Have looked through *1001 Nudis*, and didn't find anything similar, so this one has us stumped. The nudi was approx 15mm long, and the water temp was 31 degrees (lovely!). Hope you can help, Ross C and Tina A



Dear Ross and Tina,
Excellent image, what a discovery! Congratulations you have us all stumped.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Gizo hypselodoris/thorunna?
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hypselodoris sp.? Or Thorunna sp.?*
REMARKS: Well, I certainly haven't seen this little beauty before. In an effort to establish identity I sent it to Dr. Richard Willan and he has not seen it either, so there is every reason to assume at this stage that it may be an undescribed species!
Sincerely, Neville

Greetings Neville
I found this whilst 'desert diving' along the rubble in about 12 metres. I've gone through your Nudibranch book trying to ID this nudi myself but I still don't have a positive ID! I believe it to be *Fryeria sp* although it may be a *Phyllidia willani* The nodules on its body were definitely more whitish than yellow and its rhinophores were a creamy yellow. It also appears to be damaged on his right side.
Happy fishes - Karen, Cocos (Keeling) Islands



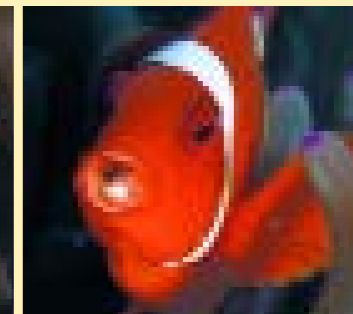
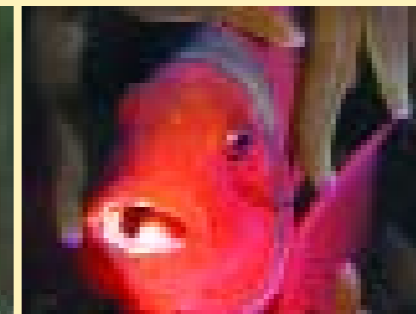
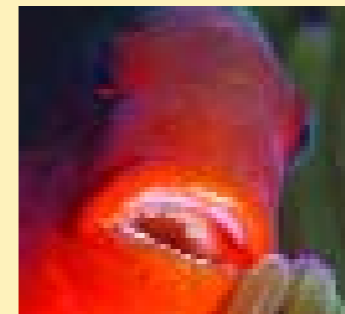
Dear Karen,
FAMILY: Phyllidiidae
COMMON NAME: Willan's Phyllidiidae
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Phyllidia willani*
REMARKS: It seem your ID is spot on and as such another new record for Cocos(Keeling) Islands. The species ranges from Indonesia to Papua New Guinea from Japan to the South Pacific and grows to around 40mm.
Sincerely, Neville



Hi again Neville,
It's not a nudi this time! My first thought was a squat lobster but it seems too 'chunky' for that, but is it possibly the same family as the porcelain crab? It was the same site as nearly all our other odd finds - sand bottom, 22>24 metres, camera Sony T3
Many thanks, Rory

Dear Rory,
You're certainly getting down to the small stuff with this one, they only grow to around 8mm.

However, your critter is well known to genus, but not to species.
FAMILY: Porcellanidae
COMMON NAME: Banded porcelain crab
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Porcellanella p.*
REMARKS: These little crabs are only found on sea pens and are generally only seen on them at night when the sea pens come up out of the sand or mud to feed. There appears to be a number of species, but I am only familiar with a couple and yours appears to be of a pattern I have never encountered before.
Best wishes, Neville



Hi Neville,
I have a few photos of two clownfish Maria and I took in the Lembah Strait. Both clownfish were located in the same host anemone.
The first photo is of the larger of the two, fish, a cropped version showing what might be two isopods located in the upper part of the mouth of the clownfish. The next photo (of the same clownfish) shows what might be a tongue-eating isopod *Cymothoa exigua* having already replaced the tongue.
The third photo is of the smaller clownfish showing what might also be a tongue-eating isopod.
Both fish were unable to close their mouths which was what caught the attention of Maria and I in the first place.

What do you think? Could those be tongue eating isopods? If so, do you know if they actually end up eventually killing the fish, or do they simply replace the mechanical function of the tongue?
Cheers, Michael

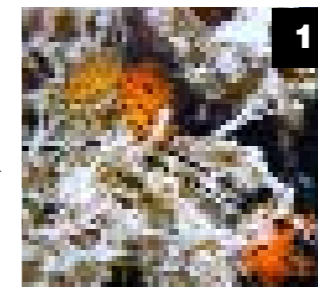
Dear Michael,
Congratulations, your images, natural history observations and research are excellent! Your attention to detail allowing our readers to share in your discoveries is second to none.
FAMILY: Cymothoidae
COMMON NAME: Tongue biter
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Cymothoa sp.*
REMARKS: Yes, you are correct in your application of understanding what your images represent. This parasitic isopod

attaches to a fish's tongue in the free-living juvenile stage as your images depict. As it grows it devours the fish's tongue until only the stub remains. By remaining in its chosen position and clinging to the base

of the tongue it resembles the fish's tongue. (Brusca & Gilligan, 1983) suggest that *Cymothoa exigua* (a tongue biter from the Gulf of California) actually serves as a physical tongue replacement, once it has eaten the fish host's tongue (as shown by your spectacular images). Their findings further suggest that should this indeed be the case, that it would be the first record of functional replacement of a host structure by a parasite.
This really is fantastic material seeing as you have only been at photography for such a short time! Keep up the good work.
Best wishes, Neville

MICHAEL AND MARIA HAVE WON A COPY OF 2002 SEA SHELLS FOR THEIR EFFORTS!

Hi Neville,
These pictures are of nudibranches we haven't been able to identify as well as a shrimp we found on a sandy bottom at 24m depth. It was tiny, only about one and half cm. It looks a bit like a harlequin shrimp, it has some spots on its body and the eyes look similar, but the legs are different. Maybe you can tell us what it is.
Thanks a lot, Erika.
Coral Sky Divers



1



2



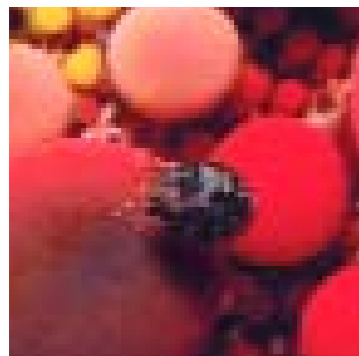
3

Dear Erika,
Your pics are excellent and make those we know fairly easy to track down.
Pic 1 orange nudibranch with black-tipped cerata.
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Tsuruga Bay favourinus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Favourinus tsuruganus*
REMARKS: These little guys are on page 110,111/1/2 in *1001 Nudibranchs*. They generally feed on the eggs of other

opisthobranchs and grow to around 10 to 12 mm. Found in Japan, PNG, Australia and Indonesia and Malaysia.
Pic 2
Please refer to your last submission for this identity. (Nocturnal stinging anemone
Pics 3,5
FAMILY: Aeolidiidae
COMMON NAME: Regal Cerberilla
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Cerberilla sp.*
REMARKS: Congratulations, this appears to be an undescribed species, I have not seen it before and according to Dr. Richard Willan it is rarely seen.

Pic 3
FAMILY: Hymenoceridae
COMMON NAME: Little harlequin shrimp
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Phyllognathia sp.*
REMARKS: You were very close with your observation. It certainly appears in the same family as the harlequin shrimp but there are a few of these small shrimps (eg. tiger shrimp) around but little is known about them. Yours may be *P. simplex* and even though your image is very good I'm not able to find an identical shrimp in any reference I have.
Keep up the good work, Neville

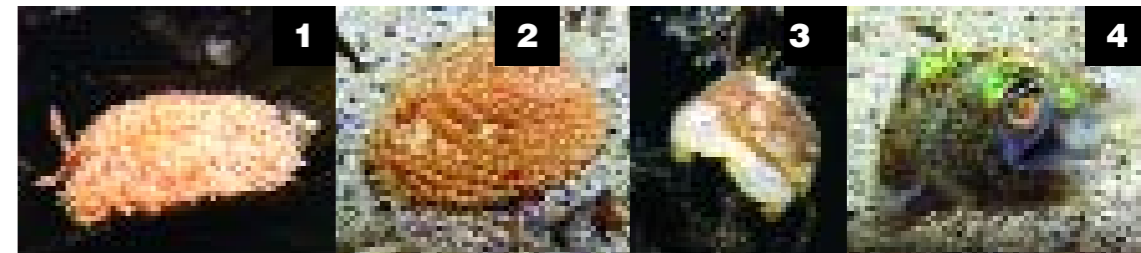
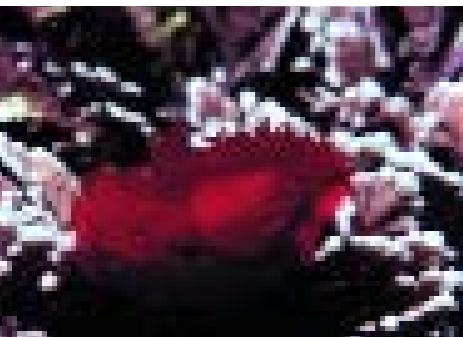
indopacific IDENTITY CRISIS



Hi Neville,
This shot of the amphipod is a severe crop from a 1:1 photo from slide. It was taken with a Nikonos V and 1:1 framers at Auginish Rocks (Montague Island) at approx. 25 metres. The amphipod is approx 2mm in size. The red nudibranch was taken in about 3 metres in Guerilla Bay 5 or 6 years ago. It is about 5mm long and bright red with frills around the edges. I wasn't sure what it was at the time, it was not until I displayed the slide that I could recognise it as a nudi. It was taken with a Nikonos V with 2:1 (twice life size) extension tube and framer. I do not have your book, but I could not find it in Helmet Debelius' book.
Thanks, Tony Brown, Canberra, ACT, Australia

Dear Tony,
Pic 1 Yes, your shot is very nice and you were correct, it is an amphipod.

FAMILY: ?
COMMON NAME: Marbled amphipod
SCIENTIFIC NAME: ?
REMARKS: You have excellent detail but as yet I am not aware of any popular reference that specializes in the visual identification of 2mm amphipods. Until that day comes we shall just have to call it ... *amphipodus smallus*.
AHQ REPLY Pic 2
Helmet's book corresponds with the species contained in his photo library in which he also represents many other photographers. Although the book is quite good, it only has around 600 shots of nudibranchs. *1001 Nudibranchs* has over 1700 images of nudibranchs. Yes, I know your critter, and it's in *1001 Nudibranchs*!
FAMILY: Madrellidae
COMMON NAME: Bloody madrella
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Madrella sanguinea*
REMARKS: Found from Japan to Victoria in Australia, this minute species (10mm) eats bryozoans and is generally found beneath rocks with encrusting bryozoans. (see page 103/10,11 *1001 Nudibranchs*)
Sincerely, Neville



G'day Neville,
I took these pics on a night dive in Waubs Bay, Bicheno, Tasmania, in 8-12 metres. I can't find them in *1001 Nudis* but they are probably there as I saw more than one of each species.

- # 1 appeared to be feeding on its host. Approx size 30mm.
 - # 2 was moving along the seabed and was more elongated until my light shone on it when it pulled itself into the rounder shape seen in the pic. Approx size 30mm. The same species as # 1?
 - # 3 turned away from the camera (don't they always!), but has two rhinophores just out of pic to the right.
 - # I've included the dumpling squid, just 'cos I thought it was cute!
- Cheers, John (Capt John Silberberg)

Dear John,
Thank you for your submissions I believe I can assist with them all to a point .
Pic 1 FAMILY: Aeolidiidae
COMMON NAME: Macleay's spurilla
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Spurilla macleayi*
REMARKS: Lives all along the southern

Australian coast where during the day it is generally found under stones. Grows to around 20mm and can be seen on page 116/12 in *1001 Nudibranchs*.
Pic 2 FAMILY: Zephyrinidae
COMMON NAME: Ringed janolus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Janolus* sp.
REMARKS: This is an undescribed species recorded in Vic and NSW. This could well be the first record for Tasmania? It grows to around 40 mm and is mostly only seen out at night. (see page 104/10,11, *1001 Nudibranchs*)
Pic 3 FAMILY: Pleurobranchidae
COMMON NAME: Spotted pleurobranchaea
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pleurobranchaea maculata*
REMARKS: Though I can't see the head of this animal (which would verify the identity)

its definitely a pleurobranch and appears (by the design on the foot) to be this species. (see page 138/8, *1001 Nudibranchs*). It can be found in Tas., NSW, WA., SA., VIC., and Qld. (also NZ)
Pic 4 FAMILY: Sepiadariidae
COMMON NAME: Southern bobtail squid
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Euprymna tasmanica*
REMARKS: Delightful little critter, this species is found from south Queensland round to Shark Bay in Western Australia. Its active at night and feeds mostly on small shrimps. This species is easy to identify due to it's well-defined spots.
It's only by divers taking images and sharing them that we'll ever be able to know what lives where and the zoogeography of species. This is an excellent example.
Keep up the good work – Best wishes, Neville



Dear Neville,
Hope you can help me with this one. I found this 'something' on the Busselton Jetty at a mighty depth of 8 metres in March this year. It was about 6 or 7cm long and wrapped around a seaweed stem.
Kind regards, Phil Malkin, Tasmania.

Dear Phil,
You get to dive really brilliant dive sites I see! Busselton is just magic, I spent many hours under there in the early 1970s... hiding from the white pointers of course! There are a zillion fantastic critters and a wealth of brilliant sessiles found there. Your sessile critter is not recognised by divers very often, but is actually very common.
FAMILY: Styellidae
COMMON NAME: Leach's sea squirt
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Botrylloides leachi*
REMARKS: Your specimen appears to be a small colony of this species. It is very widespread throughout world seas and has a large range of colour patterns.
Sincerely, Neville

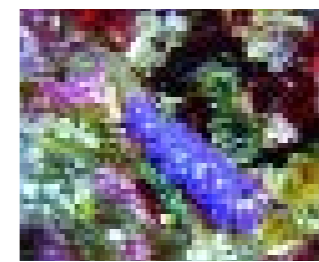
Hi Neville,
My wife (Alison) found this little blighter in 12 metres at Opal Reef, Great Barrier Reef. Taken with DX750G, wide angle lens, YS15 Strobe. Can't find it in *1001 Nudibranchs*, hoping it may be unidentified.
Thanks, Michael and Alison Cupitt



feeds on ascidians and grows to around 40mm.
Sincerely, Neville

Dear Michael and Alison,
You are correct, it isn't in *1001 Nudibranchs*, because though it does appear similar (but without gills or rhinophores) it is in reality a flatworm!
FAMILY: Pseudocerotidae
COMMON NAME: Blue flatworm
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pseudoceros bifurcus*
REMARKS: Very common on the Great Barrier Reef and known throughout the Indo-Pacific region, it

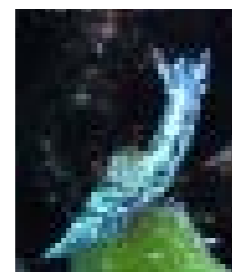
Hi Neville,
I took this photo (with the Sea & Sea 750G) at one of the dive sites from Hideaway Island (the Abyss) on the 17th of April 2006. One of the guides (Joka) pointed this little fellow out to me. He was in about 12 metres of water under an overhang. He was very tiny (about 30mm). I can't find anything that matches from your book - *1001 Nudibranchs* - but it looks fairly similar to some of the nudibranchs in the Facelinidae family. Can you identify it for me?
Thanks, Arwen



which is commendable.
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Serpent Pteraeolidia
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pteraeolidia ianthina*
REMARKS: This nudibranch has many

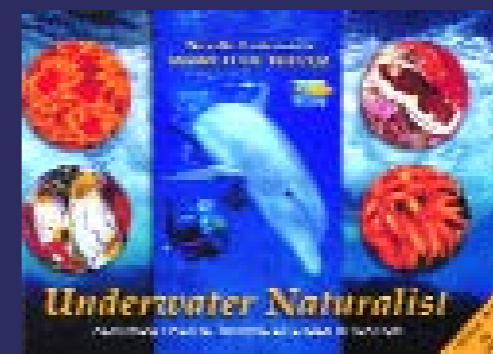
Dear Arwen,
Yes, sometimes it is a bit hard when there are so many colour forms and different positionals which critters assume. You were correct in your family placement,

color variations and assumes a number of different body poses with it's cerata coiled, relaxed and expanded. However, the oral tentacles always have two sets of blue bands around them. It grows to 120mm and is found around Australia and throughout the Indo-Pacific region.
Best wishes, Neville



Hi Neville
I've attached a creature I photographed in Whyalla South Australia at a dive site called Black Point with my new Sea & Sea DX8000 I have been unable to ID it.
Thanks, Andrew Hosking
Dear Andrew,
Thank you, your image is excellent. I think I can help .
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Painted Hypselodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hypselodoris infucata*
REMARKS: There's quite a bit of colour variation in this species, but it always seems to have red-tipped rhinophores and red edged gills. It grows to 30mm and is widely distributed across the Indo-Pacific. (see page 80/9,10,11, *1001 Nudibranchs*)
Sincerely, Neville

Asia/Indo-Pacific Marine Life Identification by Neville Coleman
RRP A\$33.00
incl GST within Australia
www.nevillecoleman.com.au
Tel 07 3341 8931
Fax 07 3341 8148



Send in your mystery critters to multi-award winning photographic environmentalist Neville Coleman. His discoveries include over 450 new species of sea creatures and many thousands of new records. His Australasian marine photographic index contains over 100,000 images and he's published 60 marine natural history books.

Submissions: Send your scanned photographs or digital images and all your relevant details to *Identity Crisis* worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au

Send transparencies and/or prints to *Identity Crisis* c/- Neville Coleman, PO Box 702 Springwood, Queensland, 4127
All published images will be credited to each copyright holder.

Your submission advises permission for publication. Relevant details should include locality, date, depth, habitat, size, type of camera system and name of photographer and/or discoverer.



worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au