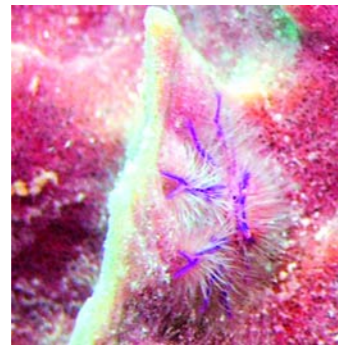


Hi Neville
Just wondering if you can help with the following nudibranch, we found it here in Vava'u, Tonga. Hope all is well.
Karen, Dive Vava'u www.divevavau.com

Dear Karen,
What an excellent little nudi. Thank you for sending it in. We get very little material from your area and would welcome some more of

this quality image.
FAMILY: Polyceridae
COMMON NAME: Black lobed thecacera
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Thecacera* sp.
REMARKS: I am not familiar with this species, but it sure appears to be very characteristic and could well be an undescribed species as I am not able to find it in any of my references. Congratulations!
Sincerely, Neville

Dear Neville,
I came across this tiny (1 cm diameter) crab in the Sulawesi Sea off Lankayan, and can't find it in any book. Can you help?
Kind Regards
Elisabeth Rosentreter, Brisbane



COMMON NAME: Siagiani's squat lobster
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Lauriea siagani*
REMARKS: This beautiful little squat lobster lives in the folds and lamellations of the barrel sponge *Xestospongia* spp. Although they can be photographed during the day, they are much easier to get shots of at night when they are more active. It is found throughout Indonesia and the Philippines and only grows to around 14mm. It was discovered by and named in honour of Wally Siagiani, a well known dive Bali dive guide.
Best wishes, Neville

Dear Elizabeth,
Thank you for your submission. Your critter is a fascinating one that I have spent many an hour trying to get shots to my satisfaction.
FAMILY: Galatheididae



Hi Neville
First of all, Farani with whom I often dive sends her regards. I have one of your 1001 Nudibranchs, but can't seem to find a picture in it to help ID what was captured in the attached photo. The critters are about 1 cm in length. I think it is a juvenile flatworm of some sort. Would appreciate if you are able to help ID them.
Regards, James Chu

Dear James,
Very interesting little critters. You would not see them in 1001 Nudibranchs as they are not opisthobranchs. My regards to Farani, I am

doing my best to get up there to do some more diving.
FAMILY: ??????????
COMMON NAME: Colonial flatworms
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: ??????????
REMARKS: I have never seen your forms before, but have encountered similar organisms which were grey with red edges living in a group in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea. As yet I have not been able to find any reference to them. However, they appear to be small species of colonial flatworms.
Best wishes, Neville

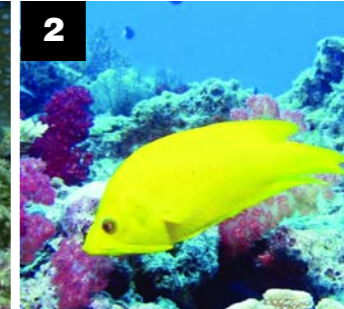
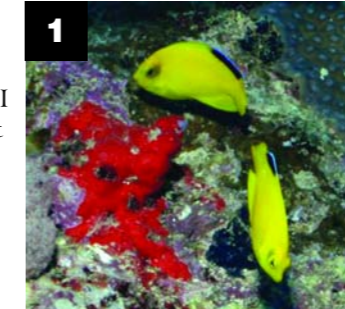
Hello Neville
I was diving with the Blue Water folk here at Noosa on the Pinnacle in July and found these two pipefish. These are the first we have seen here. Please tell us about them. This place at Noosa is very good for small creatures.
Best wishes, Jan Brown



Dear Jan,
Thank you for sharing your discoveries with our readers. I agree with you 100% Noosa and the Southeast coast of Queensland is excellent

for finding new and interesting critters. Your image is very good result, on a not always easy subject.
FAMILY: Solenostomidae
COMMON NAME: Robust ghost pipefish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Solenostomus cyanopterus*
REMARKS: You have captured both a male (smaller specimen) and a female (larger specimen). The colours of this species are highly variable and often mimic the substrate where they are found. The species ranges across the Indo-Pacific down into southern New South Wales. The female incubates the eggs in her ventral brood pouch.
Sincerely, Neville

G'day Neville from Alan Wiggs,
I've attached a photo of a small angelfish species which I am not familiar with – it's not much of a shot, but I only glimpsed them for a minute and like all small angelfish species, they disappeared in a flash (literally!) They look something like a lemonpeel angel (but they most certainly aren't!) and the black stripe on the upper rear dorsal surface is similar to a three-spot angel (only theirs is on the ventral surface!). So, what's the story? I saw them at Beqa Lagoon in 15 metres. Also while I'm at it – I've attached a photo of one of my favourite wrasses – the jawslinger wrasse. We saw many at Beqa, but only the one in this yellow colouration. I have seen them in this colouration before, but very infrequently. I'm curious as to why certain individuals in certain species "go for yellow"! They obviously aren't a different species, and it doesn't appear to be a growth stage – could they be albinos? I've also attached a



typically coloured male for comparison. Photographic data: Olympus C5000z in an Olympus PT019 Housing with Inon d180 strobe on full manual.
Thanks, Alan

Dear Alan,
Thank you for your submissions and interest, your shots are certainly enough to enable identification.
PIC1 FAMILY: Pomacanthidae
COMMON NAME: Woodhead's angelfish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Centropyge woodheadi*
REMARKS: Congratulations, very few divers have ever seen this little fish and a lot less ever realized it was different to *C. heraldi*.

This species was named for Bill Woodhead, well known diver from Cairns who was first to notice it as different and send the details in to Rudie Kuiter who described the species in 1998. It ranges from Papua New Guinea to the Solomons and across to Fiji, Samoa and Tonga.
Pic 2 FAMILY: Labridae
COMMON NAME: Jawslinger wrasse
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Epibulus insidiator*
REMARKS: The mysterious yellow pigmentation which is found in some species of fishes of numerous families is known as xanthochromatism and is far more common than we realise. The condition can be permanent and may infect several fishes in the same school.
Sincerely, Neville

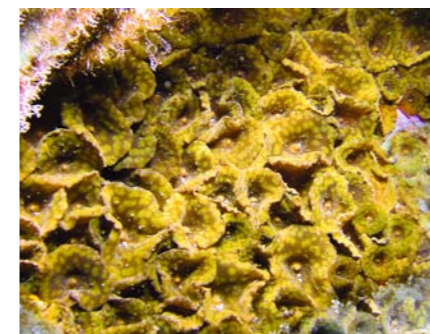
Hi Neville,
This is the image of the giant anglerfish we found at Flinders Reef, Moreton Bay, in Queensland.
All the best, Nigel Marsh



Dear Nigel,
Many thanks for sharing your find, it is a brilliant study.
FAMILY: Antennariidae
COMMON NAME: Giant anglerfish

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Antennarius commersoni*
REMARKS: These large anglerfish never seem easy to photograph, you have captured it very well. The species is widespread and is found across the Indo-Pacific, from the Seychelles to Philippines, Indonesia and Australia. Although it grows to around 30cm and may come in several colour versions few divers recognise them in the wild.
Best wishes, Neville

Greetings Neville from the sandbar
I've recently assisted with some hard coral research being conducted on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. I found this colony of creatures on the sand bed sheltered by a huge stand of stag coral. At first I thought they may be zooanthids - I've scoured my books and can't find anything that resembles these little mushroom shaped creatures. The disc is approx 50mm across and each disc is its own individual animal. When I touched one of the discs it did close up slowly. These were in 11 metres of water in the lagoon just out from Direction Island. We found a veritable Ali Baba's carpet on the same site with well over 700m² of one predominant coral *Leptoseris papyracea* and a species of coral believed to be extinct - *Anacropora forbesi* - which hasn't been recorded since Riddley in 1844. All very exciting. Hope you can assist with my little 'mushroom' creature.
Best fishes, Karen



Dear Karen,
Thank you for the updates. Your critter is not well known to me.
FAMILY: Discosomatidae
COMMON NAME: Coralliomorph
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Discosoma* sp.
REMARKS: Though there are at least 20 species of coralliomorphs known to me, few are named to species. Coralliomorphs are very close to stony corals but do not produce a skeleton. They are also known as disc anemones. They often cover wide areas and some species are very venomous and can sting through a lycra suit.
Sincerely, Neville

ASIA indopacific IDENTITY CRISIS

identity crisis°



Hi Neville,
Just got back from Hideaway Island, Vanuatu. What a fantastic diving destination. Nudibranchs everywhere! This little beauty was found on a site called the Abyss (off Hideaway) in about 20m of water. This Spanish dancer was approximately 250mm long! Taken using a Sea and Sea DX750G with strobe. Have to give a great thanks to Joka, Kolen, Ben, Malo and the boys on Hideaway – without them a lot of the little things would have been missed!
Thanks, Michael Cupitt

Dear Michael,
Many thanks for sending in this interesting study of the Vanuatu Spanish

dancer, it is excellent. Yes! the dive guides at Hideaway Island are very keen and find lots of interesting critters, this is one of the reasons why the resort is so popular with divers and especially underwater photographers, there are a wealth of interesting sites, and the dive guides know their stuff!
FAMILY: Hexabranthidae
COMMON NAME: Spanish dancer
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hexabranth sanguineus*
REMARKS: Although the Spanish dancer is found from the Red Sea to Tonga, it does come in a variety of colour patterns. I've not seen this one before, but there's no mistaking it. At 250mm it is a giant amongst nudibranchs. However, there are reports of them growing to over 300 mm in Fiji. These really big forms appear to be nocturnal.
Best wishes, Neville

Hi Neville, I spotted this unusual nudibranch in Nha Trang, Vietnam but have been unable to identify it, any ideas? I've been diving in Nha Trang for 6 years and this is my first sighting. It was at 9m on coral rubble, water temp 28 degrees.
Best regards, Simon White, Vietnam
Dear Simon,



What a brilliant little discovery, many thanks for sending it in! I've never seen this species in the field, but know of it's existence.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Allen's ceratosoma
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Ceratosoma alleni*
REMARKS: Known from the Philippines, this species appears to mimic soft corals but the other species within this genus eat sponges. It grows to around 80 mm and is considered to be a rare species. Yours is the first one I know of from Vietnam and might be considered a new record. Anything you're unsure of let me know and thanks for permission to use it in an upcoming book.
Sincerely, Neville

Hi Neville,
This was found around 18m off a wall in Mabul island. Size is about palm size and, as you can see, it's side gilled. Can't seem to identify it from your book.
Cheers, Ivan Choong

Dear Ivan,
Your shot is excellent and makes it very easy for me to identify. Your observation was right on when you mentioned it had side-gills.
FAMILY: Pleurobranchidae
COMMON NAME: Marten's berthella
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Berthella martensi*
REMARKS: This species grows to around 60mm and is found from Africa across to Mexico and north to Japan. It is believed to eat sponges and may be seen during day or night dives. When attacked, it can throw off part of it's mantle which twitches and appears alive to get the attention of the predator, while the slug gets away. It can regrow the section of mantle cast off. The species is very variable in colour and ranges from black with yellow spots, to yellow with black spots.
Best wishes, Neville

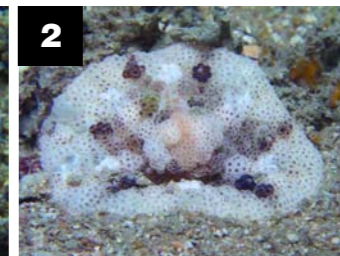


Hello Neville
As discussed on the phone - got as far as *Ceratostoma* because of the wings, but that's it. Always this bright, and we only see it Aug/Sept at low tide on the reef flats.
Anna Handley

Dear Anna,
Yes, you're correct on your initial identification to genus. Your species is known and also occurs in Northern Territory.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Trilobate ceratosoma
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Ceratosoma trilobatum*
REMARKS: Growing to around 60mm this large species is known from the Red Sea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Okinawa and on both sides of Australia and is often found at low tide. Thank you for your interest, if you have items of interest please drop me a jpeg.
Best wishes, Neville



Hi Neville,
I found some other stuff under water during a drift dive on the sand which I can't find in any book. I know they aren't nudibranchs, but I'm sending the pictures hoping you may be able to help me identify what they are. There are 3 pictures of a 'blob', there's another picture of something that looks most like sea squirts to me, and the last picture is of something else attached to coral. I have no idea what that is. If you know any of these I would really appreciate your help.
Regards, Erika Antoniazzo, Coral Sky Divers
www.coralskydiver.com



Dear Erica,
Yes, some of Rory's were a little difficult to make out. Your 'blobs' on the other hand can be sorted to various degrees of accuracy, as we don't have everything in the oceans catalogued as yet. So, on some creatures I can only tell you what group they are in.
Pic 1
FAMILY:
COMMON NAME: 'Lace coral'
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Bryozoan* (sea mosses)
REMARKS: There are many hundreds of species of bryozoans in the sea. They are very important

but little known regarding identity of live species. Many species of nudibranchs feed on them. One requires a specimen and a lot of expertise to track them down to species.
Pic 2
FAMILY NAME: Styellidae
COMMON NAME: Leach's sea squirt
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Botrylloides leachi*
REMARKS: Your image appears to be a small colony of this species. It is wide spread across the entire Asia/Indo-Pacific region and very common. There are however, a myriad colour forms which sometime make identification difficult. We will have the first popular book out on sea squirts within a short time. I believe this will elevate their status as some of the oceans most important life forms. Although some are difficult to identify

alive, the majority appear to be recognizable once one has the specimen cross-referenced with the image as I have been doing for over 35 years.
Pic 3, (4, 5 not shown)
FAMILY NAME: Aliciidae
COMMON NAME: Nocturnal stinging anemone
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Alicia* sp.
REMARKS: Species of this family inhabit reefs across the Asia/Indo-Pacific region. They are strictly nocturnal and will retract at the presence of any direct light and end up exactly the same as your image shows, with the long column retracted into a patch of soft beady jelly. However, have no illusions, the warts along the sides of the anemone are full of venomous nematocysts which can produce quite a painful sting.
Sincerely, Neville



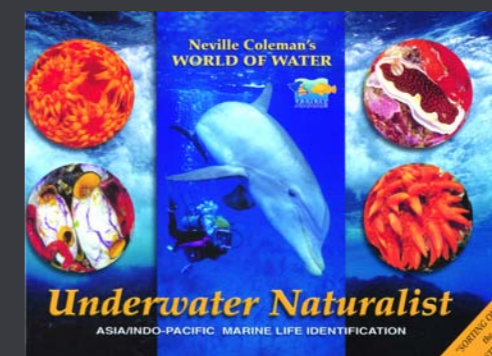
Hi Mr Coleman,
We met briefly in Adex in Singapore this year. I'm friends of Stephen Wong. I have a picture of shrimp, I'm not quite sure about its origin. This was shot in Manado recently. Could you tell me

REMARKS: This shrimp was first discovered at Loloata Island, Papua New Guinea in the late 1980s. At this time it was misidentified as a juvenile of *Periclimenes* sp. by science and left uninvestigated for many years. Since then there has been an upsurge in interest and its now the subject of a new species description and a change in Genera. Almost all shrimps found in bubble corals belong to the genus *Vir*. I haven't yet received information on the new species name and will present it in this column when that happens. Your specimen is a male, the females have 2 white blotches on the back.
Sincerely, Neville

the name of it and if it's been listed.
Thanks, Imran Ahmad www.escapeinc.com.sg

Dear Imran,
Thank you for sharing your image with our readers. Your shot is excellent and I am able to recognise the critter.
FAMILY: Palaemonidae
COMMON NAME: Graceful bubble coral shrimp (male)
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Vir* sp.

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