

Asia indopacific IDENTITY CRISIS



Neville Coleman worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au

Dear Neville,
This sea slug was found September 06 at Fly Point, Nelson Bay, Port Stephens New South Wales. It looked very like a dumpling squid at first, hope you can identify it for me. Thanks again and warmest wishes.
Bill Boyle, Edithvale, Victoria



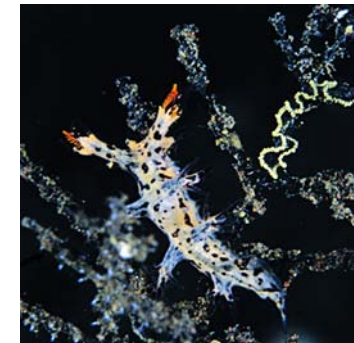
visibility dives. They range from the Philippines down to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Hawaii, Australia (south to at least Sydney Harbour) and out to Fiji and grow to around 80mm. A rather unique slug. (see page 138/15 1001 Nudibranchs)
Best wishes, Neville

Dear Bill,
Good to hear from you and to hear that you are still hanging in there chasing up critters. No problems on this at all.
FAMILY: Pleurobranchidae
COMMON NAME: Moon-faced euselenops
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Euselenops luniceps*
REMARKS: One generally only sees this species during night dives or on low light,

Neville Coleman's discoveries include over 450 new species of sea creatures and thousands of new records. His Australasian marine photographic index contains over 100,000 images and he's published 65 marine natural history books.
Submissions: Send scanned photographs or digital images and 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, Australia 4127
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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



Dear Neville,
Another nudibranch I can't find in any of my books. I photographed it last September at Batu Nitu on Bali. Can you help me with an ID?
Regards, Marcel Eckhardt

Dear Marcel,
Many thanks for sending us your very interesting critter, your images are excellent. I've never seen it before and have sent your image to Dr. Richard Willan for some help to identify it.
FAMILY: Dendronotidae

COMMON NAME: Bali dendronotus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Dendronotus* sp.
REMARKS: As your species lives on a black gorgonian and lays its eggs on it, the species should be well known, yet apart from a few images on the web it appears there is nothing known about it and we can assume it is an undescribed species. Dr Richard Willan has agreed with me that it could quite possibly belong to this family due to its large rhinophore sheaths, but this is only a tentative identification until we can see more material. Good work.
Best wishes, Neville

Hello there
I'm a friend of Danny Charlton and Angelique Batuna of Lembeh Resort, and of Ivan Choong. On my recent trip to Lembeh I came across two nudi we couldn't identify. Ivan thought one could be a new one. The fringe is unique and there's a white appendage sticking up through the gills... haven't seen that before. Can you please help?
Best regards, Ed Dixon

your submission, this is not a hard one.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Scallop-edged ceratosoma
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Ceratosoma mirmirana*
REMARKS: Found from the Red Sea across the Asia/Indo-Pacific to the Philippines and Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and northern Australia this species could never be considered to be common. It took me many years to find my first one because they're so well camouflaged and have variable colour patterns. However, you can always distinguish them by their flat profile and scalloped edging.
The white appendage?... you photographed it at the toilet. It's anus is situated in the centre of its gills, so it was 'taking a poo', so to speak. Not too many of us catch a nudi on the toilet! It is quite difficult to actually get a good example to show how their biology works. Very nice studies. Best wishes, Neville



Hi Neville,
I've come across this little buggler while diving in Tioman, on the East Coast of Malaysia. The depth was about 18m, and it was about 3cm long. Do you have any idea what it may be? Thanks in advance, Mathieu

Dear Mathieu,
Good to hear from you again. Your little critter is no problem.
FAMILY: Pleurobranchidae
COMMON NAME: Marten's berthella
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Berthella martensi*
REMARKS: This is a juvenile specimen and although I haven't seen one so small or this colour, there appears little doubt when studying your image. This species is widespread and ranges from Africa to Mexico. The most common colour form is dark yellow/orange with black spots, black rhinophores and black edging to the mantle and body edging.
Best wishes, Neville

Dear Ed,
Good to hear from you. Many thanks for



Hi Neville.
I spotted these rather garish eggs on dive under Portsea Pier in Victoria. I've seen plenty of nudi eggs in the typical spiral ribbon shape, but not ones like these. Any idea what could have laid them? Hope you can help.
Cheers, Dave Evans.

time and generally appear as seasonal visitors. You don't have any size, and I'm unable to hazard a guess at species as there are several that inhabit Port Phillip Bay. After they lay their eggs they die.
Sincerely, Neville



Dear Dave,
Thank you for your interesting little puzzle, your image is excellent.
FAMILY: Aplysiidae
COMMON NAMES: Sea hare
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Aplysia* sp.
REMARKS: These spaghetti-like strings are the eggs of a sea hare that's been feeding on red algae. Sea hares only live a short



Hi Neville,
Find attached an image of the sea horse that we were very surprised to find at Cook Island in February. This lovely like creature was found in 16m, and local dive operator Chris Muir, who has done more dives at Cook Island than anyone, was even more surprised than we were. All the best, Nigel

Dear Nigel,
That certainly is a nice looking critter and one I have never seen before. I thought it was *H. queenslandicus* but sent it to Rudie Kuitert to be sure.
FAMILY: Syngnathidae
COMMON NAME: Sad seahorse
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hippocampus tristis*

REMARKS: Rarely photographed underwater, this species was for years only known from trawled specimens and those washed up on the beaches of northern N.S.W. It grows to 23cm and is known from Lord Howe Island and southern Queensland. Congratulations, this was a very significant discovery. Sincerely, Neville .

Dear Neville!
Thanks for the help on the *Ceratosoma alleni*. It's easy now to find more in the WWW (for example on Zubi's page www.starfish.ch)



Please can you help identify this flatworm or nudibranch. Taken in Puerto Galera, Philippines, 10m. Size: 25-30mm. Thanks, Josef Schaubergger

Dear Josef,
Many thanks for your interesting critter, I'm able to sort this out for you. Your other identifications came in and I'll be working on those presently.
FAMILY: Styelidae
COMMON NAME: Spectacle botrylloides

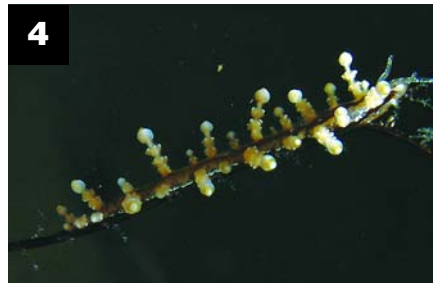
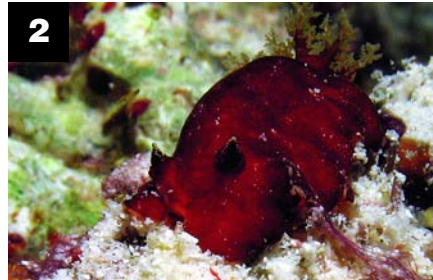
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Botrylloides perspiculum*
REMARKS: This beautiful little colony of critters is enough to fool anybody into thinking it might be a flatworm or a nudibranch, but it is a colony of sea squirts or ascidians. At present we know it occurs from the Philippines to Milne Bay Papua New Guinea and is certainly not common, I have only photographed it on 6 occasions in 40 years. Due to the colour and pattern variations I will be using the entire 6 images in my new book on Squirts that's presently being put together.
Sincerely, Neville



Hi Neville
As Rudy mentioned...
I took this picture at Minmi Trench on 24 Feb just inside the North Head of Botany Bay, Rudy looked through 1001 Nudibranchs (I need to get a copy) for me and the closest he could identify is a magnificent ceratosoma, pp65 but it is a little different. Water temp was 16 degrees and it was in 20m What do you think?
Wayne

Dear Wayne,
Thank you for your inquiry, your own ID was pretty good and your image makes ID easier.
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Sinuate ceratosoma
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Ceratosoma sinuata*
REMARKS: Found across the Indo-Pacific from the Maldives to Japan, Australia, Lord Howe Island and Vanuatu, this beautiful species grows to 60 mm and is not considered to be common. (see page 66/1-2 1001 Nudibranchs)
Best wishes, Neville

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Hi Neville,
Here my first 4 photos. All photos were taken by Erwin Kodiat and published at Nudi Pixel (<http://www.nudipixel.net/>)
Location: Popoh, Manado, Indonesia
Depth: 20 meters, Length: 5 mm
Location: Raja Ampat Islands, Indonesia
Depth: 8 meters, Size: 40 mm
Location: Seraya, Bali, Indonesia
Depth: 20 meters, Size: 20 mm
Location: Mimp House Reef, Tulamben, Bali
Depth: 10 meters, Size: 10 mm

Thanks for your help, Erwin Kodiat, Nudi Pixel

Dear Erwin,
Thank you for this interesting series. Due to some of these being very small I've asked Dr Richard Willan to take a look as well and he's agreed with most of my determinations.
Pic 1
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: 'Mimpi' phyllodesmium
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Phyllodesmium* sp.
REMARKS: This specimen is too juvenile to

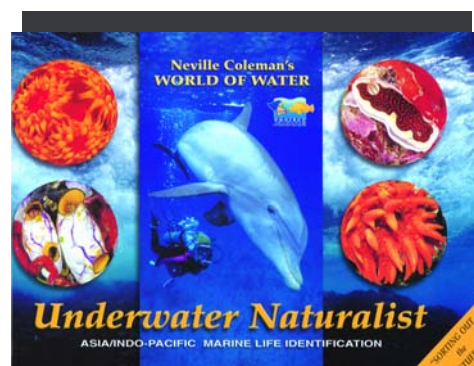
determine to distinct species.
Pic 2
FAMILY: Discodorididae
COMMON NAME: Red platydoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Platydoris sanguinea*
REMARKS: Richard has determined this species based on recent scientific publications. It grows to around 50mm and is known from Indonesia and the Philippines.
Pic 3
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Robo's chromodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chromodoris roboi*
REMARKS: This species is now known to be fairly widespread and comes in an amazing array of patterns and variations. This one (though very small) appears to be a colour form of Western Australia, one that I photographed at Exmouth Gulf Western Australia in August 1972. (see page 72/14,15 1001 Nudibranchs). However, as more knowledge and images appear it may be that some of the forms may require further investigation as separate species.
Pic 4
FAMILY: Eubranchiidae
COMMON NAME: 'Mimpi' eubranchus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Eubranchus* sp.
REMARKS: This one appears to be an undescribed species and until more are found, it occurs in Indonesia only? These are excellent examples Irwin and we welcome any other strangers you or your fellow nudibranchers are unable to find ID'S for.
Best wishes, Neville

Dear Neville,
I work as an dive instructor for Sundive in Byron Bay. I am here in Malaysia on the Perhentian islands working for a few months and whilst diving here I came across this funny thingy and now I hope you can help me to identify it.
many thanx in advance, and greetings from the beautiful Perhentians
Peter Zagol

unusually fragile puff- ball-topped long stalked sponge gives little indication to it's ancestry. It is generally found in sheltered lagoons, or on silty slopes and grows to around 80 mm. Colour is similar across it's range. You won the bet!
Best wishes, Neville



Dear Peter,
This certainly an interesting critter and although it is fairly common in some areas, due to it's small size few divers ever notice it.
FAMILY: Phloeodicytidae
COMMON NAME: Puff ball sponge
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Oceanapia sagittaria*
REMARKS: Found from the Malaysia to the Maldives and across to Papua New Guinea, Australia and the Great Barrier Reef this very



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RRP A\$33.00
incl GST within Australia
www.nevillecoleman.com.au
Tel 07 3341 8931
Fax 07 3341 8148

identity crisis°

Hi Nev, if you could identify these images from upper Exmouth Gulf Western Australia it would be great. thanks Matt

Dear Matt,
Well, there are some really interesting critters in this bunch, even a couple of undescribed species. I discovered many new species during my visits to Exmouth from 1971 to 1995 but I sure did not find some of these.

1 port 020.jpg
FAMILY: Polyceridae
COMMON NAME: Dusky nembrotha
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Nembrotha kubaryana*
REMARKS: This colour form is the same as that found in Dampier. This species grows to around 70 mm and ranges from South Africa to Okinawa the Philippines and across to Papua New Guinea to Australia. It feeds on ascidians.
2 PC120848.JPG
FAMILY: Gymnodorididae
COMMON NAME: Red-papulose gymnodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Gymnodoris rubropapillosa*
REMARKS: This also is similar to the Dampier colour form of this species. Growing to 50 mm this species is a voracious predator on other species of nudibranchs tracking them down and generally eating them tail first. It is found across the entire Asia/Indo-Pacific area.

3 wally 021.jpg
FAMILY: Bornellidae
COMMON NAME: Rowland's bornella
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Bornella* sp.
REMARKS: The first Western Australian images of this undescribed species were taken by Wally Rowlands in 1988 off Dampier, WA. Since it was first published in 1001 Nudibranchs (2001) it has been found in a number of other areas and is awaiting description, as are hundreds of other species divers have discovered over the years.

4 exmouth5 124.jpg4
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Scribbled chromodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chromodoris* sp.
REMARKS: A brand new species first discovered by Takamasa Tonozuka from 'Dive and Dives' in Bali Indonesia, this species is now known from Malaysia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Yours is the first record I've seen from Australia and it is an excellent image of the species.
5 exmouth5 370.jpg
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Striate chromodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chromodoris striatella*
REMARKS: Known across Northern Australia, Indonesia and

Hi Neville,
I photographed this sea star off the Steep Point area in Western Australia. So far all Marine Parks staff I've contacted are unable to match it to anything they've seen before and, as it is such a distinctive specimen, could it have arrived here via a vessel etc? I've also contacted the WA Museum but there's nothing so far.
I must say that you are one of the people directly responsible for me taking up diving in 1989 and recently decide to try underwater photography. Two very expensive hobbies, but oh so rewarding - thank you for the inspiration and interest.

Cheers, Cathy Zwick, Senior Ranger, Shark Bay District, WA.

Dear Cathy,
Your species is certainly not common and I've only seen it twice in the field; as far as I can make out it is the following species.
FAMILY: Ophidiasteridae
COMMON NAME: Leia star
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Leiaster coriaceus*
REMARKS: Though your specimen's arms seem shorter than the eastern



Singapore to New Caledonia this species grows to around 40 mm and feeds on sponges.
6 port 026.jpg
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Serpent pteraeolidia
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pteraeolidia ianthina*
REMARKS: Very widespread across the entire Asia/ Indo - Pacific it is a very common species growing to over 120 mm. It feeds on hydroids and stores microscopic zooxanthellae in its tissues. It is one of the few nudibranchs known to guard its eggs.
Keep up the good work, there are some nice species you are finding!

coast one's I've observed, the fatness and general colour pattern indicates this species. It ranges across the Indo- Pacific to at least New Caledonia, and grows to around 300mm. (see page 37/4 in your Sea Stars book.)
Best wishes, Neville



More of your critter finds are on www.divetheblue.net