



Hi Neville,
Greetings from Perhentian Islands, Malaysia. I found this little gem again this morning and wondered if you can tell me what it is. It was in the channel at around 20 metres – I think it is a Cerberilla?
Thanks – Rory Ferguson



Dear Rory,
What a fantastic little critter. I have never seen it before and would love to include it in the new Nudibranchs Encyclopedia book. Yes, you are correct it is a Cerberilla and your images are very good, especially for your little point and shoot camera. Keep up the good work.
FAMILY: Aeolidiidae
COMMON NAME: Royal cerberilla
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Cerberilla* sp.
REMARKS: I can find no reference material in regard to the identity of this species and must assume it is an undescribed species. Congratulations. In the short time you have been photographing nudibranchs you have sent in several that are new species. Although the area may not be 'alive' with nudibranchs, there certainly some unusual species, and the sandy channel areas with small bommies and rubble and current are very good places to find good species.
Best wishes, Neville



Hello Neville,
This nudibranch photo was taken by Coral Divers Instructor Stephen Godwin on one of our wrecks in Darwin harbour. They were abundant on that one wreck site and we've not seen them before. They looked like they were feeding on the stinging hydroids (also in abundance on this wreck). I've tried to find this nudibranch in your book, but the closest I can get would be the Chocolate *Austraolis* – but this one is obviously different colouring. It would be really appreciated if you could you identify this nudi for us.

Just for the record, we have a large number of different nudibranchs on the reefs and wrecks here in Darwin harbour, so 'Nudibranch spotting' is a favourite hobby of many of our divers!
Hope you can help – thanks again
Suzie Lack, Coral Divers
Winnellie, NT, Australia

Dear Suzie,
Darwin has some excellent nudibranchs and many rare ones and we really don't know much about them, so your observations and everybody taking images are the only way anybody will ever know what species occur up there.
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Brock's moridilla
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Moridilla brochii*
REMARKS: Although your specimen does not have orange tipped cerata as the one illustrated from Dampier WA on Page 111/11 1001 Nudibranchs, all the other features are similar including the orange rhinophores and orange-ended oral tentacles and centre orange stripe down the centre of the body. So, it seems to me that your specimen is a colour form of this species. It grows to 60 mm and is found across the Indo-Pacific region.
Sincerely, Neville



Hi, I took this picture quite sometime ago when I was diving at Roach Reef in Malaysia. I couldn't identify this nudibranch from books and also from my dive buddies. Hope you could help me?
Thanks
Simon Chua, ClubScuba

The things you find diving on Christmas Island... woo hoo !!!
Linda Cash,
Christmas Island Tourism Association

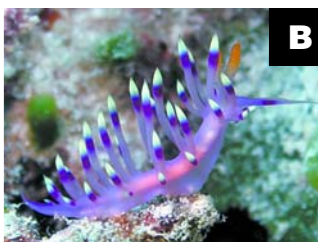
Dear Simon,
Thank you for your submission, your images are excellent.
FAMILY: Tritoniidae
COMMON NAME: Mosaic marionia
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Marionia* sp.
REMARKS: As far as we can determine your species is undescribed and as such as yet has no name. Science as yet is not even agreeable on what genus it should be in. However, for the time being I am calling it as above. It has been found in the Philippines and a few other places and grows to around 65 mm.
Best wishes, Neville

Dear Linda,
Wow! That's exciting news as I don't believe a seahorse has been recorded from the Island before. I've made a preliminary identification but also checked with Rudie Kuiter and he agrees on this ID.
FAMILY: Syngnathidae
COMMON NAME: Common seahorse
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hippocampus taeniopterus*
REMARKS: Found throughout Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and down to Australia. It generally favours soft bottom areas and can often be covered in fine algae on its skin. The species grows to around 220mm and is mostly drab in colour. Juveniles are often found amongst rafts of sargassum floating on the surface.
Best wishes, Neville

Hi again Neville,
We have a some images from our trip to Heron that have us a little confused and would appreciate your confirmation. We think we have a flabellina, a white spotted chromodoris and a high-gilled glossodoris. Thanks to Keith Jamieson from the Heron dive crew - what a spotter! Heron is a great dive venue and we know you've discovered many critters there in the past.
Pic A, Chromodoris, Heron Island, 12 metres, 65mm approx
Pic B, Flabellina, Heron Island, 18 metres, 20 mm approx
Pic C, Glossodoris, Heron Island, 15 metres, 60 mm approx
All images - Olympus 7070 with strobe
Regards, Paul and Sandra

Dear Paul and Sandra,
Your images are excellent and make my job much easier. Certainly Heron Island is for nudibranchs and many hundreds of species have been recorded there over the years as can be seen in Dr Richard Willan's excellent book and also in 1001 Nudibranchs species locality data.
Pic A
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: White-spotted

chromodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chromodoris albopunctata*
REMARKS: This species is not particularly common and has been recorded from the Seychelles to Okinawa and Papua New Guinea including Australia and the GBR. It grows to 65mm and is thought to feed on sponges.
Pic B
FAMILY: Flabellinidae
COMMON NAME: Much desired flabellina
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Flabellina exoptata*
REMARKS: An image of this species from Heron Island was featured in 1001 Nudibranchs. The species occurs across the Indo-Pacific area and is generally found on hydroids upon which it feeds.
Pic C
FAMILY: Chromodorididae
COMMON NAME: Robo's chromodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chromodoris roboi*
REMARKS: It now appears that this (to me) very unique species with exceptionally large and well developed



gills is merely a form of the extremely (almost unbelievably) variable *C. roboi*. However, I still have to be convinced that one day some of the forms won't eventually end up as new species. *C. roboi* ranges across the entire Asia/Indo-Pacific region and has at least 15 colour forms from different locations. Many of these will be available along with the 3000 other images in my new book Nudibranchs Encyclopedia.
Best wishes, Neville

Hi Neville,
I found these two nudibranchs while guiding on a wall in north Lembeh Strait (Jiko Jansi). The first one (unknown nudibranch.jpg) was on the wall around 9m deep, approx 3cm, and the second (unknown nudibranch02.jpg) was on the slope around 4m deep. I've been diving here for more than two years and never saw these. One of our guides claims he's seen the second nudibranch on the dive site called Nudi Retreat. These photos were taken with a Sony DSC-P73. No strobe/macro lens. Can you help?
Kind regards, Bernard Lamprecht

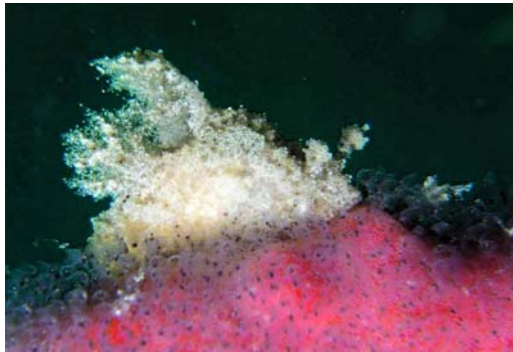
Dear Bernard,
Many thanks for your contributions and excellent imagery, they are very interesting subjects, one rare and one common.
Pic 1
FAMILY: Zephrinidae
COMMON NAME: Mauve-tipped janolus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Janolus* sp.
REMARKS: This small nudibranch is not widely known, though we have photographic records of it from Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia. It is an exquisite

species with it's yellowish spots and mauve tipped cerata, and is thought to feed on bryozoans. Congratulations, it appears to be an undescribed species.
Pic 2
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Serpent Pteraeolidia
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pteraeolidia ianthina*
REMARKS: Found across the entire Asia/Indo-Pacific region plus all states in Australia, this species is very common and comes in an astounding array of colours and colour combinations. Regardless of colour they always have two blue or purple bands around the oral (lower) tentacles. They feed on stinging hydroids and are able to store undischarged nematocysts in the cerata on their backs to act as a predator deterrent. They are known to sting humans (personal experience). They grow to at least 120mm and are one of the few nudibranchs known to protect or 'brood' their white circular egg strings. When juvenile they are pure white, but soon attract various numbers of zooxanthellae (microscopic algae) which are stored in their tissues and act as camouflage and a source of nourishment.
Best wishes, Neville

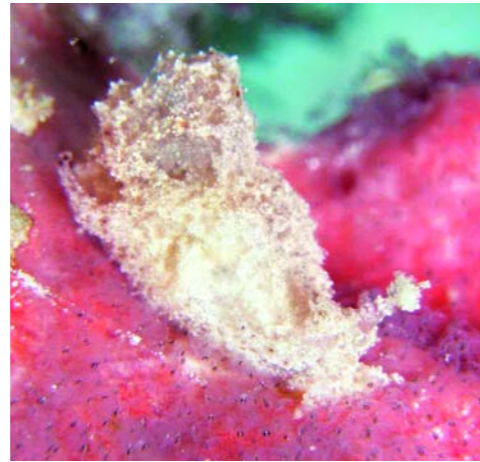


Asia indopacific IDENTITY CRISIS

identity crisis°



Dear Sir,
Hi, how are you over there? I would like you to take a look at this nudi. It stayed on the dark pink coral sponge when I found it 2 or 3 weeks ago and just now I have the chance to take a photo. Size: around 15mm, and depth around 18 to 20 metres.
I have another two more nudi pictures – I



guess - have to check all my nudi pictures from now on!
Thank you,
Leonard - Mabul Island, Malaysia.

Dear Leonard,
Thank you for your submission. I did not know this species so I sent it off to Dr Richard Willan at the Northern Territory Museum. He sent back the following information. Your critter is only the second ever specimen; the first was from Madang, Papua New Guinea, and was described by Fahey & Gosliner in 2004.
FAMILY: Aegiridae
COMMON NAME: Petalled aegires
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Aegires petalis*
REMARKS: The gills are protected by three massive flaps and this is where the name originated, from the Greek word *petalon* meaning a leaf or petal. Congratulations, this is a great find indeed!
Best wishes, Neville



Dear Neville,
We hope to find you well. These are shots of a single nudibranch, 3-4mm, 10m depth in Raja Ampat. Takako located this small Trapania (?). Neville, do you know of this species? Or is it going to be another Takako's Trapania 2? Looking forward to hear back from you.
How is the new nudi book coming? Warmest thanks and big hugs,
Stephen & Takako

Dear Stephen and Takako,
Many thanks for the chance to see your newest discovery. Pity it was not in time for *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia* but there will be another time I'm sure.
FAMILY: Goniadorididae
COMMON NAME: Uno's trapania
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Trapania* sp.
REMARKS: I have never seen this species before and I can find no reference to it, so it appears that at this stage it is an undescribed species. Congratulations, you have another by the looks of it.
Best wishes, Neville

Dear Neville,
Found this little critter off Cairns in 5 metres of water on coral sand. Can you make any sense of it please? I'm using a Nikon D 200 with a 105 macro with flash. The size was approximately 25-30 mm.
Phil Woodhead

Dear Phil,
Not too many divers have ever seen this brilliant little animal as it's difficult to find and even more difficult to recognize as it has two forms. You've done very well!
FAMILY: Olindiidae
COMMON NAME: Iridescent limnomedusian
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Olindias phosphorica*
REMARKS: You've photographed it in it's resting, or crawling position. I first found this

little mystery in 1976 at Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef. It was inching along the bottom like an unusual caterpillar and I thought at the time this had to be a fantastic new species of nudibranch. As I went closer and put the framer of my Nikonos III over it to take some shots the little bugger jumped up off the bottom, changed it's long crawling shape into a jellyfish and swam away. I was gobsmacked! But I did get the shots and spent long hours running down it's identity and working out



the secrets of it's behaviour which had not been recorded before.
Your 'critter' is the free swimming stage of an unknown hydroid. Its brilliant colours and corkscrew-like tentacles are good distinguishing features. In it's elongate shape it settles to the seabed and moves along by worm-like extensions and retractions of it's body. Despite the small size it can deliver an uncomfortable sting which may be painful for several hours.
Many thanks for the loan of your great images for *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia*.
Best wishes, Neville

Hi Neville, A few nudibranchs from last weekend - can you please assist with an ID? Thanks, Jeffrey de Guzman

Dear Jeffrey,
They are excellent shots and are no trouble to identify.
Pic 3843
FAMILY: Flabellinidae
COMMON NAME: Red-lined flabellina
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Flabellina rubrolineata*
REMARKS: This species is widespread across the Indo - Pacific. It feeds on hydroids and grows to around 35 mm.
Pic 3855
FAMILY: Flabellinidae
COMMON NAME: Red-lined flabellina
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Flabellina rubrolineata*
REMARKS: This a brilliant image and you might say "how come this is the same species? It has spots, not lines". Welcome to the world of nudibranchs Jeffrey. It took us years to get all the forms of this species photographed and collected and it was quite a while before the taxonomist broke the sad news. Instead of four species, we only had one! However, all the forms are in *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia*.



Pic 3843
FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Philippines phidiana
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Phidiana* sp
REMARKS: I don't recognize this species at all and I suspect it is undescribed. The two orange patches just below the rhinophores are very significant and stand out considerably.
Best wishes, Neville



Hi Neville,
The photo was taken on the Pt Noarlunga Reef in South Australia in about 6 metres. The critter has a shell-like cover in its back, is about 10mm to 15mm long and 6mm wide. Thank you for your time.
Safe diving, Gary Doubleday

Dear Gary,
Yes, I can sort this out for you.
FAMILY: Trochidae
COMMON NAME: False ear shell
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Stomatella impertusa*

REMARKS: Forms of this genus are found across the Asia/Indo - Pacific region and there may be more than one species. They are very small only growing to around 25 mm and are generally nocturnal, coming out at night to feed on microscopic algae. They are in fact shaped similar to an abalone shell but do not have any holes around the edge of the shell. If harassed they can cast off their tails. Found in most states of Australia. (see page 59/13,14,15, 2002 Sea Shells)
Best wishes, Neville



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.
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worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au

Hi Neville,
Can you please assist with an ID on this critter?
Thanks, Kylie Kenny

Dear Kylie,
Nice to hear from you, your images from PNG came out very nicely.
FAMILY: Solenostomidae
COMMON NAME: Ornate ghostpipefish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Solenostomus paradoxus*
REMARKS: Found across the Asia/Indo-Pacific area, this varicoloured species appears to mimic whatever host it settles near as a juvenile. Your fish is either a juvenile or a male (which are much smaller than the females) which has chosen a feather star as a host to hide around. This species grows to 100 mm and is a lot more common than we first thought when we found them in the early days of diving.
Best wishes, Neville



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

Asia indopacific IDENTITY CRISIS

Dear Neville,
I work as a Marine Biologist (teaching) in French Polynesia and whilst snorkelling over the coral reef in 4ft of water I came across this 'egg mass' or 'internal organs' of some marine animal and hope you could help me to identify it. I hope the hand in the picture can

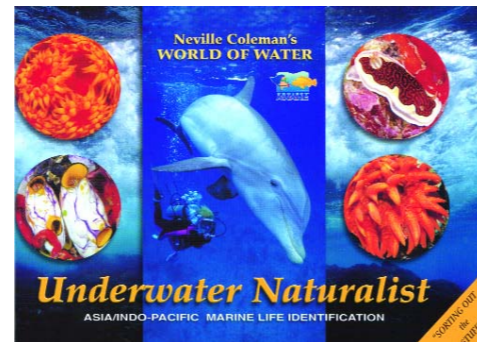
CLASS: Holothuroidea
COMMON NAME: Sea cucumber
SCIENTIFIC NAMES:
REMARKS: These are the remains of what appears to be the extruded intestines of a stichopid sea cucumber. When harassed many sea cucumbers will expel their Cuvier's organs (very sticky harmful threads) from their anus as a protective device. If these repel the invader the sea cucumber retrieves those organs still attached by sucking them back into their sacks. On occasions where the Cuvier's organs do not



give some sense of size. Many thanks. Estelle, Naturalist for Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society

repel, or where species do not have Cuvier's organs, sea cucumbers that are seriously harassed can extrude their entire internal organs, as has happened here. Amazingly they then proceed to grow an entire new set of internal organs. Best wishes, Neville

Dear Estelle,
You are already in the right direction as to your mystery subject.



Asia/Indo-Pacific Marine Life Identification by Neville Coleman

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