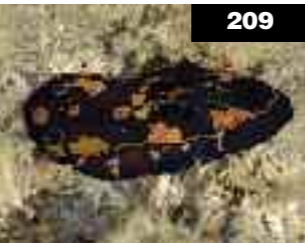




Dear Neville,  
Not really sure with some of the ID's of the nudis. I'd say 204 and 209 are showing North-west Aphelodoris. Are they different species because of the colouration on the foot of one of them? The third pic 166 I'm not sure of at all. I'd say it could be a Dendrodoris of some kind. Kind regards, Doris



204



209

north Western Australia and although variable, your two are both this species. Since 1001 *Nudibranchs* was released there's been a lot of new species described and this is one that has changed from the original in that book. *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia* has most of the updates.



166

**Pic 166** FAMILY: Discodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Beautiful platydoris  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Platydoris formosa*  
REMARKS: This is pretty typical of the north Western Australian forms. This species grows to 120mm, feeds on sponges and is found from Tanzania to Samoa. Interesting to note, my first specimen from Dampier had its side bitten out by a fish also.

Dear Doris,  
Glad you're finding some good critters.  
**Pics 204 & 209** FAMILY: Dorididae  
COMMON NAME: Giant Aphelodoris  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Aphelodoris gigas*  
REMARKS: This species appears endemic to

Hi Neville,  
I found this nudibranch on Tioman Island, divesite: Soyak Reef, Malaysia in about 12m of water crawling on a rock. Could it be a flabellina bilas? The second picture I'm not sure what kind of scorpionfish it is. Same location as previous picture, divesite: Fan Canyon in about 14m between rocks. Thanks for that! Sonja



1

Dear Sonja,  
Thanks for the good information and congratulations on being very close on your identifications.

**Pic 1** FAMILY: Flabellinidae  
COMMON NAME: Red-lined flabellina  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Flabellina rubrolineata*  
REMARKS: Yes, this does look a bit like *F. bilas*, but is a colour variation of the above. This species is found throughout the Indo-Pacific region, grows to 30mm and feeds on hydroids.



2

**Pic 2** FAMILY: Scorpaenidae  
COMMON NAME: Tasseled scorpionfish  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Scorpaenopsis oxycephala*  
REMARKS: Distributed from the Red Sea across the Asia Pacific, this species grows to 36cm and is a 'wait and watch' ambush style predator.

Hi Neville,  
This little guy was living in a beerbottle on the bottom of Lembah Strait. I'm guessing it's a kind of blennie but don't know his name...



Cheers, Frances Schlingemann

Dear Frances,  
Yes, these little guys make houses out of our throw-aways.  
FAMILY: Blenniidae  
COMMON NAME: Variable fang blenny  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Petroscites variabilis*  
REMARKS: Distributed across the Indo-

Pacific in areas of muddy, weedy bottom and lagoonal habitats. It grows to 75mm and lives in holes... or bottles?

Hello Neville,  
We've done our 9th trip to Heron Island! Apart from renewed great service, they've re-employed Keith Mathison as Dive Centre Manager, we snapped this slug at Turtle Gully. You've always said Heron is the place for slugs and it has again delivered. It may be a Furtive Thorunna but the yellowish rhinophores and gills have thrown me. Shot at 14m, July 2009, about 35mm length, reef environment, Canon G10 with Inon macro adapter and twin Inon Z240 strobes.  
Kind regards, Paul & Sandra Wickham

Dear Paul & Sandra,  
Thank you for your interest, and thanks for the heads up on Heron.  
FAMILY: Chromodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Bullock's hypselodoris  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hypselodoris bullockii*



REMARKS: This species is quite variable, but yours is fairly typical for Heron Island. It occurs from Malaysia to at least New Caledonia and grows to 40mm.

Dear Neville,  
Here are two critters which I found at around 7m in Anilao, Philippines in October 2008. Size wise, the black and white critter was around 40mm, while the yellow nudi was about 15mm. Please help to identify. Thanks.  
Warm regards, Anthony Mah



3837



3912

Dear Anthony,  
They certainly are very interesting critters indeed.

**Pic 3837**  
FAMILY: Pseudocerotidae  
COMMON NAME: Marbled flatworm  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pseudoceros* sp.  
REMARKS: This is a brilliant species and one I have never seen before.

**Pic 3912**  
FAMILY: Chromodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Yellow Noumea  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Noumea* sp.  
REMARKS: This appears similar to *N. flava* but although there is a hint of orange on the inner edge of the mantle on your species I am unsure of its true identity.



Hi Neville,  
I took this shot in Manado. It was a tiny octopus no more than 2 inches and was very shy so I was only able to get a couple of shots of it before it disappeared. The guide thought it was a hairy octopus but I can't find any ID for it - can you help at all? Many thanks, Debi Henshaw

Dear Debi,  
Thank you for this very cute little octopus, its a beauty.  
FAMILY: Octopodidae  
COMMON NAME: Manado Octopus  
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Octopus* sp.  
REMARKS: There are quite a number of undescribed species of small octopus across the Indo-Pacific. Little is known about most of them and identification hazards a guess at the best. The hairy octopus images I've seen appear much more tasseled. However, as they can change their body appearance, I really do not know. You were very lucky to get the shots you did!

Dear Neville,  
I photographed this species on my last visit to Tonga. What do you think?  
Thanks, Steve Blume

Dear Steve,  
The image you sent of the pink nudibranch is great. I don't think I know it offhand and will definitely have a



closer look, it's brilliant!  
FAMILY: Chromodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Tongan thorunna  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Thorunna* sp.  
REMARKS: This species appears similar to *T. halourga*, but that species is dark purple at both ends with red-orange gills and rhinophores, and has not been recorded from Tonga.  
**Congratulations, it would appear that your Tongan species is undescribed and a new record for the area. It certainly takes out the prize for the next quarter's IDENTITY CRISIS nudibranch submissions and wins you a FREE copy of *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia!***

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 and enquiries:**  
Send scanned or digital images to Identity Crisis,  
Attention Neville Coleman  
worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au  
Image details should include locality,

date, depth, habitat, size, type of camera system and name of photographer and/or discoverer. All published images will be credited to each copyright holder. Your submission advises permission for publication.



worldofwater@nevillecoleman.com.au >

# identity crisis

Hello Neville,  
Pic 1642 looks like a flat worm except for the horns in front!?! July 2009.  
Location: Tioman, Malaysia.  
Depth: 15m. Size: 3cm ?  
Pic 1702, September 2009.  
Location: Tioman; Malaysia.  
Depth: 22m. Size: 3cm?  
Thank you, Jon Grevich



**1642** (Original discovery records dusky-spotted maritigrella *Maritigrella fuscopunctatus* found at 8m at Heron Island, GBR 11 – 1976. Australian Museum). Although I only found this species in two different years at Heron Island, I did find it again at Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef. While the markings around the edge of the mantle can be lighter, or filled in to appear quite dark, and the spots may

Dear Jon,  
Your images came out nicely, no trouble ID-ing them.  
**Pic 1642** FAMILY: Pseudocerotidae  
COMMON NAME: Dusky-spotted maritigrella  
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Maritigrella fuscopunctatus*  
REMARKS: You're right, it is a flatworm and your image shows it very nicely, from an excellent aspect. The species appears in the Indo-Pacific and grows to around 50mm.



be smaller or larger, the species appears visually recognisable.  
**Pic 1702** FAMILY: Chromodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Magical hypselodoris  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Hypselodoris iacula*  
REMARKS: Only named in 2006, this species is still regarded as rare. It grows to 50mm and has been recorded from Taiwan, Indonesia, Andaman Sea and the Philippines.

Dear Mr. Coleman,  
I saw this sea slug in the Maldives last month. I don't know what kind it is and didn't find it in your book *The Underwater Life of Maldives* in Italian. Can you kindly



Hi Neville,  
Could you please help me with this little beauty? I was diving with Stephen Woolcott at Kabaira one night, at 9m, Canon, A710 IS, and we were having a great time as usual. Then this fella came into our vision, it was hard to get a good photo, as a brittle star wouldn't leave him alone and we didn't want to disturb things.  
Thanks, Linnet Scott

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Trapania miltabranca*  
REMARKS: Fabulous little species first discovered in Indonesia, it is also known from Papua New Guinea and may also be orange in colour. Still very rare, it grows to 15mm. There are three images in *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia* page 302.



Dear Linnet,  
Yes! it sure is a beauty!  
FAMILY: Goniodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Tapestry trapania

help me to identify it? Thank you very much!  
Best Regards. Angela Lin

Dear Angela,  
Your nudibranch is well known and your image clear, no trouble making an ID.  
FAMILY: Aegiridae  
COMMON NAME: Lemon notodoris  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Notodoris citrina*  
REMARKS: This species occurs from South Africa to the South Pacific and is commonly found feeding on the bright yellow sponges *Leuceffa* sp. It grows to 60mm and is not as common as others in its genus.



Hi Neville,  
This little guy crossed my lens on Bait Reef in the Whitsundays in late November and I haven't been able to find him anywhere!  
Cheers, Mike Barry

Locality: Bait Reef, Whitsundays, GBR;  
Depth: 8-10m; Habitat: Staghorn coral over sand;  
Size: approx 10-12cm; Camera: Canon G7 and Sea&Sea YS110 strobe  
Photographer Mike Barry

Dear Mike,  
The image is certainly good enough for an ID.  
FAMILY: Pomacentridae  
COMMON NAME: Yellow tail damsel  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Neoglyphidodon nigroris*  
REMARKS: Your fish is a juvenile of this species. The adult is generally brown or grey on the upper part of the body with a yellow rear body and tail. It grows to 11cm and ranges from the Andaman Sea to Vanuatu.

Hello Neville,  
A species of Haminoea (maybe)? Very thin fragile and transparent shell, found on mud flats in 100 numbers laying eggs (yellowish). Size: 2-2.5 with animal extended and size of shell is nearly 1cm. Colour varies from bright orange (in field) to pale greenish (in captivity, also in field). Secretes large amount of mucus.  
Locality: Mahul Creek and Sewri Creek, Mumbai, India.  
Vishal Bhawe, Project Officer, BNHS, India



Dear Vishal,  
Yes, your ID is correct, your images are excellent!

FAMILY: HAMINOEIDAE  
COMMON NAME: INDIAN HAMINOEA  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Haminoea* sp.

REMARKS: Many forms of this genus generally occur in large numbers in soaks, mangroves and littoral soaks.

Dear Neville,  
I took the attached nudibranch photos at Flinders Pier in Victoria at 10am on 12 July 2009 at 2.5m, temp of 11 degrees, using an Olympus C-765 camera. Conditions were not the best for photo quality. The



animal was just under 1cm long. I cannot identify it from any of my reference books. Can you help please. Regards, Harry Wright

Dear Harry,  
I can see where the confusion might happen, but I can sort it out for you.  
FAMILY: Hormathiidae  
COMMON NAME: Nurse anemone  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Cricophorus nutrix*  
REMARKS: This species is only found in Victoria, South Australia and eastern Western Australia. It can have a column colour of green, or brown with speckled tentacles. Yours has only half expanded tentacles and as such it could appear similar to a nudibranch's gills. The same species is also found in New Zealand.

Hi Neville,  
I am a marine biologist and dive instructor in Timor Leste. My colleague and friend Kasia and I were diving in Tasi Tolu and found this weird shrimp at around 18m in a sea fan. I didn't find it in any guide books. Can you help me?  
Thank you very much and wish you all the best. You're work is truly an inspiration.  
Bruno Mendes



Dear Bruno,  
Your shrimp is a little harder than most to find and as such, may not be in some Marine Life guide books. You did well to discover it.

FAMILY: Hymenoceridae  
COMMON NAME: Tiger shrimp  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Phyllognathia ceratophthalma*  
REMARKS: Very attractive smaller species growing to around 25mm, this species is generally found beneath rocks and may be seen as a pair, with the male being smaller. I'm not quite sure what this one is doing on a sea fan, as it feeds exclusively on echinoderms. Perhaps it is 'sniffing' out the direction of its next meal? It ranges from Japan to Papua New Guinea, Australia and Indonesia.

Hi Neville,  
I'm a friend of Roger Steene's from Cairns. I collected a small cone shell from the Coral Sea and I'm not sure what species it is. The closest Roger and I could find in your 2002 Shell Book was *Conus distans* but there appear to be some differences. Roger suggested I email a photo to you. I was wondering if you know which cone this is?  
All the best, Fenton

Dear Fenton,  
Good to hear from you again.  
FAMILY: Conidae  
COMMON NAME: Distant cone  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Conus distans*  
REMARKS: Cone shells, like all individuals with species, are subject to variation. It is quite unbelievable how some species vary in shape, colour and pattern. Yours appears to be almost identical to the one in 2002 *Sea Shells* but I agree with you that it does not

agree with the cleaned dead shells in many of the identification guides on cone shells. Neither does it appear to be the same as any known species illustrated in the most comprehensive of cone shell guides. However, according to malacologists at the Victorian Museum, this ID is the closest they (also) can come up with. I suggest you send your shell to the new Curator of Molluscs at the Queensland Museum and he could check it against the shells held in the museum collections.



# identity crisis



N 1



N 3



N 2



N 4

Hello Neville,  
I send you some pictures hoping you help me to know better the wonderful marine life.

**Pic N 1:** Bunaken. Summer 2006  
Camera Sony DSC-P100  
Photographer: Esperanza Manzano  
First I thought it was a nudibranch, but it seems to have minute holes, maybe it could be a colony of ascidians.

**Pic N 2:** Philippines, Malapascua Island.  
August 2007.

Camera Sony DSC-P150  
Photographer: Esperanza Manzano  
Looking to know what kind of strange animal it was, suddenly it appeared to me like a sea star with only one arm. What do

you think?

**Pic N 3:** Philippines, Bohol. August 2007.  
Camera Sony DSC-P150  
Photographer: Esperanza Manzano  
Well, I think this is an anemone but, what is she eating? It seems to be a big fish! Is this possible?

**Pic N 4:** Indonesia, Sulawesi, Lembeh Strait. August 2006.

Camera Olympus 700  
Photographer: Francisco Manuel Fernández

Thank you very much. Best wishes from Spain. Esperanza Manzano

Dear Esperanza,  
Thank you for your interest and sharing

your excellent images. I'm sure I can help on some of these.

**Pic N 1:**  
FAMILY: Polycitoridae  
COMMON NAME: Green eudistoma  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Eudistoma* sp.  
REMARKS: This genus is widely distributed across the Indo-Pacific.

**Pic N 2:**  
FAMILY: Echinasteridae  
COMMON NAME: Luzon sea star  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Echinaster luzonicus*  
REMARKS: This species multiplies by both sexual and asexual reproduction. Your image is of an autotomised arm re-growing a new disc and new arms.

**Pic N 3:**  
FAMILY: Corallimorphida  
COMMON NAME: Malaysian corallimorph

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Pseudocorynactis* sp.  
REMARKS: Your corallimorph has captured a sea cucumber and is slowly digesting what is already in its mouth. The sea cucumber has swollen itself up in an effort to thwart the corallimorph and appears too big to swallow whole, but this does not deter these voracious predators. They will stretch out and grab anything that comes within range. This is an excellent natural history shot.

**Pic N 4:**  
FAMILY: Discodorididae  
COMMON NAME: Funeral jorunna  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Jorunna funebris*  
REMARKS: Widespread from the Red Sea to New Caledonia, this species feeds on sponges, grows to 35mm, and lays white egg ribbons.



Asia/Indo-Pacific  
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by Neville Coleman

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Hi Neville,  
I was on a dive trip to Mabul, and my divemaster spotted this nudibranch. I took a few pictures of it with my point and shoot, and when we went back to the dive center, we tried to look it up in your books. However, we could not identify it. It was found at a depth of about 8m, on a rock, and was about 1cm in length. Would appreciate any feedback from you regarding the species.



Thanks and cheers,  
Lynette

Dear Lynette,  
Yes, this one is a juvenile that shows sign of damage to its forward cerata and oral tentacles.  
FAMILY: Flabellinidae  
COMMON NAME: Bicolor Flabellina  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Flabellina bicolor*  
REMARKS: Fairly common across the Indo-Pacific, it grows to 25mm and feeds on hydroids.

Dear Neville,  
My diver spotted this white creature on the left that resembles the leaves on the right. He told me this creature looks like some form of crab and it moves by crawling exactly like a normal crab. He found this when diving at Lembeh Straits, North Sulawesi. Can you help with this unknown creature please? Thanks. Sam Leong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Dear Sam,  
Your diver was correct, these two things are certainly connected. I can identify, to a degree, both things in your image.

**1 on the right is...**  
FAMILY: Plumularidae  
COMMON NAME: Cypress hydroid  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Aglaophenia cupressina*  
REMARKS: This species of hydroid is quite virulent, and can produce quite painful stings to humans (which are extremely itchy) and may take up to a month to heal.

**2 on the left is...**  
The thing covered all over in cypress hydroid is a spider crab. The spider crab lives on the hydroid and snips off small pieces and 'plants' them all over itself for protection and camouflage. Our observations and videos show that the spider crab actually feeds on hydroids. This information has yet to be published.

FAMILY: Majidae  
COMMON NAME: Hydroid spider crab  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Chalaroachaes curvipes*  
REMARKS: At this point in time this is the best information I have. Actually we do not know how many species of spider crabs inhabit hydroids? This identification was possible from images and collections made from Milne Bay Papua New Guinea.

Hi Neville,  
Had a great time in Fiji, great shark action and wonderful reefs, but can not ID these.

Octopus: Tiny octopus found at 25m on rubble bottom.  
Seastar 1: Saw quite a few of these small sea stars - but can not id.  
Seastar 2: Haven't seen this one before, found in 15m during the day.  
Hope all is well.

Regards, Nigel Marsh

Dear Nigel,  
That's excellent, Fiji certainly has some brilliant diving.

**Octopus:** FAMILY: Octopodidae  
COMMON NAME: Rubble octopus  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Octopus* sp.  
REMARKS: This is a fantastic discovery and appears to be an undescribed species. Certainly I've never seen it before and am unable to find any reference to it. Congratulations, it just shows that if you keep your eyes open, you never know what might be just around the corner.

**Seastar 1:** FAMILY: Ophiasteridae  
COMMON NAME: Indian sea star  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Fromia indica*  
REMARKS: This species form is found in the Coral Sea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Fiji. It was once thought to be a new species. I for one was very disappointed that it was not!

**Seastar 2:** FAMILY: Ophiasteridae  
COMMON NAME: Scribbled sea star  
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Fromia* sp.

REMARKS: This species is not in the New Caledonian book on echinoderms and the only reference to it at all is the small specimen I have in my *Sea Stars* book on page 32/11. Unfortunately my one was only 10mm but it was found in Vanuatu. As far as I can determine this is an undescribed species and although your image is excellent I can find no other identified species which resembles yours. Once again, congratulations!



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