



asia/indopacific critter id

identity crisis

Neville,
Nudibranch Jervis Bay.jpg was taken at Jervis Bay on the long weekend in October this year. Depth was about 20m, temp was 13 degrees. The nudibranch was approx 15mm. The second, Nudibranch Jervis Bay 1.jpg, was also taken at Jervis Bay 29 November 2009. Depth again was about 20m, water temp 18 degrees. This nudibranch was approximately 5mm and I found three of them on the brown fluffy bryozoan.
Thanks, Tony Brown.



Jervis Bay.jpg



Jervis Bay1.jpg

symbiotic zooxanthellae living in the tissues. (see *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia* page, 278/279 for examples of this species.)

Jervis Bay 1.jpg FAMILY: Goniodorididae

NAME: Speckled okenia OKENIA

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Okenia mija*

REMARKS: Confined to the east coast of Australia this species ranges from New South Wales to Southern Australia and New Zealand. It feeds on the bryozoan *Amathia wilsoni*.

Dear Tony, many thanks for your submissions, your images are excellent.

Blue nudibranch, Jervis Bay.jpg FAMILY: Facelinidae

COMMON NAME: Macpherson's phyllodesmium

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Phyllodesmium macphersonae*

REMARKS: Species occurs south to Tasmania and Victoria.

Grows to 20 mm and feeds on soft corals. The brown specs are



Dear Neville,
Many thanks for the swift reply. Here are 2 jpegs of a small octopus found at around 12 metres at Manta Point off the island of Nusa Penida, Bali. They were

taken with a very basic camera and I'm afraid. I know that most octopuses can make their skin appear spiky, but have never seen one do it to such an extent. Is it a sub-species of some kind, or just particularly talented?

Best wishes, Andrew Powell

Dear Andrew, thank you for your submissions, the images of a camouflaged octopus certainly show just that.

FAMILY: Octopodidae

COMMON NAME: Reef octopus

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Octopus* sp.

REMARKS: Yes, your specimen has assumed a low profile position and raised its skin into palps to blend into its surroundings better. Most octopus and cuttlefish have this amazing adaptation. Other molluscs such as cowries, ovulids, opisthobranchs and nudibranchs have similar abilities.

Dear Neville

Our dive guide Junior pointed out this nudie on a dive in Walindi. After going through your *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia*, I couldn't come up with an ID of it, though I think it might be a *Glossodoris*. Can you help please?

Sincerely, Elisabeth Rosentreter, Brisbane

Dear Elizabeth,

Good for Junior. Your hunch was right. Walindi and Kimbe Bay have such a wealth of fantastic species, both inshore and offshore.

FAMILY: Chromodorididae



COMMON NAME: Girdled glossodoris

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Glossodoris cincta*

REMARKS: On page 166/3 of *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia* is an exact replica to yours from the same locality. The only difference is your specimen is a little hunched and not crawling. This species grows to 50mm and feeds on black sponges.

Dear Neville,

More of the fantastic nudis at Julian Rocks.

Your assistance would be appreciated.

Sincerely, John Natoli

Dear John,

There certainly are a real upsurge in discovery down there. Are you guys are getting better at spotting the small stuff?

Pic 20352 FAMILY: Dendrodorididae

COMMON NAME: Scribbled doriopsilla

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Doriopsilla miniata*

REMARKS: This species is by no means common anywhere. The first one I ever found was at Julian Rocks in 1977 and I've only ever seen one other specimen. It occurs from South Africa to Australia, grows to 28mm, and feeds on sponges.

Pic 20356 FAMILY: Discodorididae

COMMON NAME: Orange rostanga

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Rostanga* sp.

REMARKS: This one appears pretty small, but seems to have the characteristics of this genus and appears to be an undescribed species.

Pic 20367 FAMILY: Chromodorididae

COMMON NAME: Festive mexichromis

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Mexichromis festiva*



20352



20356



20367



20371

REMARKS: A beautiful little species that appears restricted to the east coast of Australia. It grows to 15mm and the eggs have direct development young.

Pic 20371 FAMILY: Gastropteridae

COMMON NAME: Psychedelic

sagminopteron

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Sagminopteron*

psychedelicum

REMARKS: You have captured this often difficult to photograph species very well. It occurs from the Red Sea to at least Lord Howe Island and although a very attractive species it goes unnoticed by many divers due to its small size - only 12 mm.



a bit 'floppy'.

Thanks and regards, Therese

Dorsch

Wicked Diving, Office Manager

and Trip Director

Dear Therese,

Your shot is excellent for identification of this species, and thanks for sharing all the info regarding your dive site and how you found it.

FAMILY: Monacanthidae

COMMON NAME: Bearded

leatherjacket

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Anacanthus*

barbatus

REMARKS: Found across the Indo-

Pacific, this species can be found

mimicking seaweeds, sticks

floating on the surface, ropes and

is often seen head-down in clumps

of gorgonians in shallow water. It

grows to 35cm and is rarely seen

by divers. Your specimen has had

its tail shredded!

Hi Neville!

I need your help to try to ID a very strange fish I saw photographed.

Location: Boonsung wreck, just off the coast outside Khao Lak, Phang Nga province, Thailand. The wreck (or pile of metal) rests on a sandy bottom at 20 metres. Nothing else around for miles, no reefs or anything due to the 2004 tsunami. Quite bad visibility normally.

The fish was hanging out around the line when we came up to do our safety stop and floated around a bit like a leaf (we thought it was a squid/cuttlefish at first). It was about 30-40 cm long and quite thin.

The tip of the nose, that little white bit, was

Neville,
I found this critter at Bawley Point in around 10 metres on 25 January 2010. There was also a smaller one sitting on the same piece of kelp. This one was about 10-

15mm tall. Can you help with ID? The shot was taken with a Nikon D200 in a Seacam housing, 60mm lens and SB105 Strobe.
Thanks, Tony Brown

Dear Tony, Many thanks for sharing your magnificent image with us, its' brilliant!

However, that's as far as it gets you I'm afraid. It appears to be a type of sea anemone; perhaps it is a settling juvenile of some species? I have never seen anything like it before!



identity crisis



Hi Neville,
Date: Nov 2009
Depth: 5metres
Habitat: Finger weed (Scaberia?) on sand.
Size: 15-20mm
Camera: Fujii Finepix
Name of Photographer: Timothy Forster
Thanks, Timothy Forster

an undescribed species that so far is only known from South Australia.
FAMILY: Aliciidae
COMMON NAME: Bulb-sided sea anemone
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: (undescribed)
REMARKS: When I first discovered this species it was sitting on top of a sponge in South Australia in 1971. Its tentacles were withdrawn (nocturnal species) and with its bulbs and purple stripes I thought I'd discovered a new species of nudibranch. However, on closer examination and collection for the Australian Museum I discovered it was a sea anemone. Just another of the hundreds of new species I originally discovered that still sit in Australian Museums awaiting description!

Dear Timothy,
Yes, it fooled me the first time I saw it in 1971. Congratulations, its



Hello Neville,
Thanks for the book, it's beautiful. This is one of the pictures from my first trip to Indonesia: the dive guide said this was an anemone. But from your book I have the impression it could well be a Janolus sp. What is your opinion? Best regards, Rene

Dear Rene,
Many thanks, glad you like the book. Your creature:
FAMILY: Fungiidae
COMMON NAME: Mushroom coral
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Fungia* sp.

REMARKS: This appears to be a juvenile mushroom coral. Quite often the tissues are inhabited by zooxanthellae, or bacteria which give an luminous impression to the tentacles. Certainly a very interesting image.



Dear Anna,
Thank you for your interest and excellent images. These are certainly worth reporting on. I have never seen white ones before either.

FAMILY: Facelinidae
COMMON NAME: Jason mirabilis
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Jason mirabilis*
REMARKS: According to the experts there's only one species in the genus, so that being the case, your's are colour variations and you appear to be the first one to record them – congratulations. This species feeds on the hydroid *Solanderia ramosa* which appears to be the case with your specimens as well. All the images I've seen are of ones with lavender-pink

Hi Neville,
I am hoping you may know whether it is Jason mirabilis or not?
The only Jason Mirabilis I've been able to find on the internet have had pink bodies, not pure white. I've sent you this picture, so you can see what they were feeding on. I found them in New Zealand in the Marlborough Sounds.
Kind regards, Anna



bodies with white cerata, rhinophores and oral tentacles. It grows to 55 mm and can be quite common in areas where its host food hydroid is found.



3837



3912

Dear Neville
Here are two critters I found at around 7 metres in Anilao, Philippines on 3 October 2008. Size wise, the black and white critter was around 40mm while the yellow nudibranch was around 15mm. Please identify. thanks.
Warm regards, Anthony Mah

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.

Hello Neville,
I took this photo on our 'Naru Gap outward' dive while on holidays in Gizo October last year. The patterning of the fish does not fit with that of either a pink anemonefish or an eastern skunk anemonefish shown in my *A Diver's Guide to Underwater Malaysia Macrolife* (by Andrea & Antonella Ferrari) – both of which I saw and photographed during the 6 days of diving. Could it be a hybrid between these two species or is it just immature? Kind regards, Martin Steinbauer

Dear Martin,
Thank you for your mystery fish, its a nice example. Like the majority of life on earth, anemone fishes are often variable in colour and pattern. There are also juvenile colour forms and location variations, as you have mentioned.
FAMILY: Pomacentridae
COMMON NAME: White-bonnet anemonefish

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Amphiprion leucokranos*
REMARKS: This species is restricted in range to Northern Papua New Guinea, Manus Island, New Britain and the Solomon Islands. Your specimen is living in the anemone *Heteractis crispata*. The species grows to 90 mm. Yours appears to be an immature specimen, although the white top stripe and side bars may be connected, or not connected, depending on the individual fish. Most adults have separated bars.



Dear Mr Coleman,
Collected this lovely shrimp, any ID for it would be most welcome. Collected off Pondicherry, south India. 5 km offshore, 18m depth. Sandy bottom. 4 of these shrimps and 3-4 small crabs were living on a small piece of branch covered with encrusting life. The piece of branch originates from shrubs, small thorny accacias, etc dropped by local fishermen as FADs. Great places to see local sea life!
Best, Shilpin Patel, Marine Science Section

Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry 605 002 India

Dear Shilpin,
That is indeed a very nice shrimp and one I have not had the pleasure of finding.
FAMILY: Hippolytidae
COMMON NAME: Prime shrimp
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Lysmatella prima*
REMARKS: This species is known from the Maldives, Andaman Islands, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines. It grows to 1.5 cm and is the only species in this genus.

Hi there Neville
I'm a open water scuba diver from Mackay North Queensland. I've been photographing critters for about two years and have a few I've had trouble identifying.
• The first one was taken at Bait Reef in the Whitsundays off Hayman Island I think it is some form of Anemone or maybe a *Heliofungia actiniformis*
• The second one is I think a *Fromia indica* (ophidiasteridae) 15cm and was filmed at Mantaray Bay in the Whitsundays but I've never seen one with six fingers on it
• The third one may be a many-spotted sweetlips juvenile also found at Mantaray Bay
• The last one I think is of sea slug/nudibranch but have not seen one as brightly coloured as this.
Thanks, Tristan Bone

Dear Tristan,
Yes, I can help you out on these.
Pic 0715 FAMILY: Fungiidae



0715



0876



0828



0446

COMMON NAME: Mushroom coral
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Heliofungia actiniformis*
REMARKS: You can always recognise this species by white the bulb-tipped tentacles.
Pic 0828 FAMILY: Ophidiasteridae
COMMON NAME: Indian sea star
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Fromia indica*

REMARKS: Certainly it is not common to find this species with 6 arms and I've only seen it 5 times before!
Pic 0876 FAMILY: Haemulidae ;
COMMON NAME: Many-spotted sweetlips
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Plectorinchus chaetodonoides*
REMARKS: You're correct. This is a juvenile of the species. It is thought that the smaller ones, with their flamboyant swimming and colour pattern mimic toxic flatworms.
Pic 0446 FAMILY: Aegiridae
COMMON NAME: Lemon notodoris
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Notodoris citrina*
REMARKS: Found across the Indo-Pacific, this species grows to 60 mm and feeds on yellow sponges.

identity crisis

Dear Mr Neville Coleman,
On 21 Feb 2010 at 12:46 Jakarta time or 13:46 Bali Time I shot this transparent nudibranch in Seraya, Tulamben, Bali northeast. I could not find the name in your Nudibranchs Encyclopedia. The closest maybe to Discodorididae Batangas Halgerda in Page 215. Pictures were taken by Canon 500D, Lens EF 100 mm f2.8L Macro IS USM. Thank you for your time and attention. Regards, Jerry Djajasaputra



Dear Jerry,
Congratulations on a brilliant little species, and a very nice image of a nudibranch which I for one have never seen before.
FAMILY: Eubranthidae
COMMON NAME: Orange-ringed eubranthus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Eubranthus* sp.
REMARKS: Your nudibranch appears to be an undescribed species. It is very similar to *Eubranthus mandapamenis* (see page 262/3,4,5 *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia*) but yours has orange rings on the cerata.

Hi Neville,
Hope you can help with these? Pipefish - looks like it has been attacked by something, which has exposed the eggs.



Pipefish

Wrasse - from Fiji, *Cheilinus* sp. but do not have this one in any of my books.
Parrot - Also from Fiji, have not been able to ID this one.
Rock Cod - also from Fiji, looks similar to *E merra*, but pattern is different.
Surgeon - This school of surgeonfish was photographed at South West Rocks, New South Wales, cannot find them in my reference books.
Octopus - From Port Stephens, New South Wales, not sure of the ID. All the best, Nigel Marsh



Wrasse



Surgeon

Dear Nigel,
They're interesting images and I'll do my best.



Parrotfish



Octopus

Pipefish
FAMILY: Syngnathidae
COMMON NAME: Tiger pipefish
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Filicampus tigris*

REMARKS: Yes, it appears as though something has taken a bite out of the pipefish's egg pouch and the orange eggs are hanging out.

Wrasse
FAMILY: LABRIDAE
COMMON NAME: Orange-stripe wrasse
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Oxycheilinus* sp.
REMARKS: I have nothing in my files in regard to this form. I have not been able to access any visual features similar to your image and must assume it is a juvenile or, female of a species that has yet to be published in fish ID books. Unfortunately none of the fins of your shot are showing and fins



Rock cod

REMARKS: I have checked this one and depending on the intensity of colours the pattern can appear different. However, all the visual characters for this species are present.

are an important ID feature of these wrasses.

Parrotfish

FAMILY: Scaridae
COMMON NAME: Yellowbar parrotfish (female)
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Scarus schlegeli*

REMARKS: This species has been referred to as Schlegel's Parrotfish. It is found from Japan to the South Pacific. Your image is of a female, very nice shot.

Surgeonfish

FAMILY: Acanthuridae
COMMON NAME: Spotted sawtail
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Prionurus maculatus*

REMARKS: Only found on the central east coast of Australia, it has 3 plates on the caudal peduncle and grows to 40cm.

Octopus

FAMILY: Octopodidae
COMMON NAME: Octopus
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Octopus* sp.
REMARKS: Great little shot which shows it has been feeding on a mussel. However, I do not have enough references to determine this one to species, as several species are within this range.

Rock cod

FAMILY: Serranidae
COMMON NAME: Honeycomb rock cod
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Epinephelus merra*

Hi Neville,
I'm a mature age student at Murdoch uni in Perth, doing a double degree in environmental and marine science. I was doing a night dive on the U.S.A.T Liberty wreck and came across this little guy. Is it a squat lobster or another type of crustacean?
Location: U.S.A.T Liberty wreck, Tulamben Bali, 28/07/2009
Depth: 16m, Size: 12mm
Habitat: Gorgonian fan
Camera: Nikon D200, Nikon 105mm lens, Seacam housing, dual Inon Z240 strobes.
Kind regards, Mark Gerlach



Dear Mark, thank you for your image. It is one I know very well, and though it is a common species, few divers ever see it.

Also, thanks for making my job easier and sending the details of location and data.
FAMILY: Majidae
COMMON NAME: Depressed spider crab
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Xenocarcinus depressus*
REMARKS: Found exclusively on gorgonian sea fans, this very attractive little crab is often observed in company of a mate. The female is larger than the male, growing to around 30 mm and the species is widespread across the Indo-Pacific. During the day they hide deep down in the fronds of the sea fan, only coming out at night to feed.

Dear Mr. Coleman,
I would like to request for your help in identifying these two nudibranchs. Both were found at 30 metres depth in Mantangale Philippines near Camiguin island.
The aeolid was found in a soft coral patch near an undersea freshwater spring.

COMMON NAME: Yamasu's trinchesia
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Trinchesia yamasui*
REMARKS: This species is very variable in colour and occurs across the Indo-Pacific. It grows to 40 mm and feeds on hydroids.

Pic 1126 FAMILY: Discodorididae



Aeolid 1



1126

1126 is a halgerda found on some sponges laying a orange-pink egg ribbon. Thank you in advance, Stan de la Cruz

COMMON NAME: Okinawa halgerda
SCIENTIFIC NAMES: *Halgerda okinawa*
REMARKS: A truly fabulous species which ranges from Japan to Okinawa, Indonesia and now the Philippines. Congratulations on your new record. It grows to 90 mm and feeds on sponges.

Dear Stan, these are excellent images and I will certainly be able to give you ideas on their identity.
Aeolid 1 FAMILY: Tergipedidae

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.



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NEVILLE COLEMAN'S NUDIBRANCHS ENCYCLOPEDIA






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