

The Second Coffs Coast Sea Slug Census

10-12 January 2020

Thanks to everyone who participated in the second Coffs Coast Sea Slug Census. Despite the strong winds, many people ventured out into the marine habitats of the survey area between Minnie Water and Sawtell. A large number of participants spent time on rocky shores and estuaries around the region and found a diverse range of species. These records were supplemented by a much smaller number of participants who managed to scuba dive (mostly at South Solitary and North West Solitary).

HOW MANY NUDIS? The **27 participants** who submitted photos recorded **94 species** of sea slugs over the three days from across the entire search area. *Doriprismatica atromarginata* was once again the species that was sighted the most and this was closely followed by *Hypselodoris bennetti* and the sea hares *Aplysia juliana* and *Aplysia argus*. With **31 species, Elizabeth Hardaker** documented **the most species**. Congratulations Liz – bragging rights for 12 months 😊

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES – There were lots of very interesting species photographed including some that have been seen only sporadically in the region. The main contenders were both found by Craig and Alex Lewis at South Solitary Island, *Doris immonda* and *Ardeadoris rubroannulata*. Both are uncommon locally and we decided to award the title to *Doris immonda* which is a little rarer than the other contender (and is a great photographic record of this species).

BEST PHOTO – Congratulations **Elizabeth Hardaker** for her prize-winning image of *Dendrodoris guttata* taken at Diggers Camp (see back page).

To help hone those identification skills, and to alert you to some of the species you may have overlooked, we have selected an image of each species found. The initials of the participant/team that took the image are shown in brackets (a list of participants who submitted images appears at the bottom of this page).



Doris immonda – the most interesting find by **Craig Lewis and Alex Lewis**.

Participants/teams: B&C – Brett Touzell & Craig Lewis; BE – Bob Edgar; BG – Bruce Gilchrist; C&A – Craig & Alex Lewis; EH – Elizabeth Hardaker; EJK – Euan Provost, James Tucker & Kirsty Christensen; ES – Eva Staehelin; IS – Ian Shaw; KGJ – Kerry, Grant & Jim Cameron; KH – Kendal Houghton; KJ – Kirsty Jeffrey; LEL – Leah Mamo, Euan Provost & Luka Andrews; MN – Matt Nimbs; SS – Steve Smith; T&N – Tom and Nicola Davis; TNYD – Tom Mair, Neil & Yvonne Vaughan, Darryl Wong.



Bullina lineata (EH)



Hydatina physis (T&N)



Aplustrum amplustre (SS)



Micromelo undatus (SS)



Laprophaminoea cymbalum (EH)



Haloa sp. (EH)



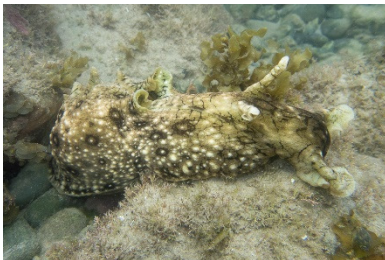
Biuve fulvipunctata (EH)



Mariaglaja inornata (T&N)



Oxynoe viridis (SS)



Aplysia argus (SS)



Aplysia concava (SS)



Aplysia extraordinaria (B&C)



Aplysia juliana (SS)



Dolabella auricularia (SS)



Dolabrifera dolabrifera (SS)



Bursatella leachii (TNYD)



Stylocheilus quercinus (SS)



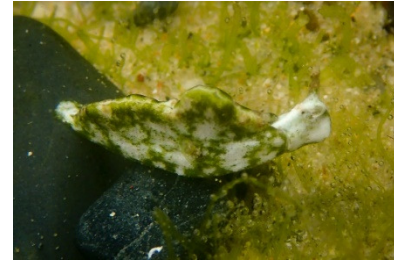
Stylocheilus striatus (MN)



Elysia australis (EJK)



Elysia maoria (T&N)



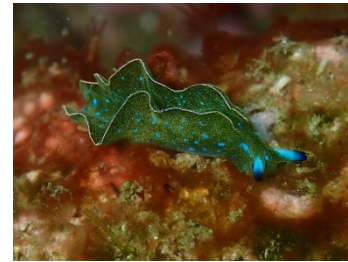
Elysia pusilla (BE)



Elysia tomentosa (EH)



Elysia yaeyamana (C&A)



Elysia sp. 1 (blue spot) (BE)



Elysia sp. 2 Coffs2 (B&C)



Elysia sp. 3 Coffs2 (EH)



Placida kevinleei (SS)



Stiliger aureomarginata (EJK)



Sagaminopteron ornatum (TNYD)



Umbraculum umbraculum (EH)



Pleurobranchus peronii (EH)



Hexabranhus sanguineus (KJ)



Okenia atkinsonorum (A&C)



Gymnodoris alba (MN)



Gymnodoris sp. 1 Coffs2 (EJK)



Gymnodoris sp. 2 Coffs2 (SS)



Gymnodoris sp. 3 GC3 (ES)



Ceratosoma amoenum (TNYD)



Ceratosoma tenue (TNYD)



Miamira magnifica (B&C)



Miamira sinuata (B&C)



Diversidoris sulphurea (TNYD)



Doriprismatica atromarginata (TNYD)



Glossodoris angasi (T&N)



Aredeadoris rubroannulata (C&A)



Chromodoris aspersa (EH)



Goniobranchus aureopurpureus (B&C)



Goniobranchus collingwoodi (TNYD)



Goniobranchus cf *fidelis*¹ (TNYD)



Goniobranchus daphne (EJK)



Goniobranchus setoensis (KH)



Goniobranchus splendidus (KJ)



Goniobranchus tinctorius (B&C)



Goniobranchus verrieri (B&C)

¹cf = "compare with" which means it is similar to the nominated species, but not necessarily the same



Hypselodoris bennetti (BE)



Hypselodoris cf maculosa (B&C)



Hypselodoris jacksoni (A&C)



Hypselodoris maritima (EH)



Hypselodoris obscura (SS)



Mexichromis festiva (EH)



Verconia simplex (BE)



Doriopsilla miniata (EH)



Doris immonda (C&A)



Atagema intecta (TNYD)



Atagema osseosa (EH)



Atagema cf osseosa (SS)



Rostanga arbutus (SS)



Hallaxa iju (EH)



Carminodoris nodulosa (T&N)



Dendrodoris guttata (EH)



Dendrodoris krusensternii (T&N)



Dendrodoris nigra (TNYD)



Sebadoris fragilis (SS)



Plocamopherus imperialis (KGJ)



Phyllidiella ocellata (TNYD)



Phyllidiella pustulosa (TNYD)



Dermatobranchus cf fasciatus (C&A)



Dermatobranchus primus (SS)



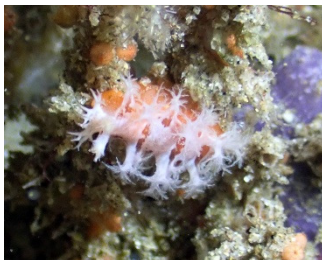
Madrella sanguinea (KGJ)



Marionia pustulosa (T&N)



Tritoniopsis elegans (B&C)



Tritonia sp. (Carijoa) (MN)



Tritonia sp. 3 (B&C)



Melibe australis (SS)



Austraolis ornata (MN)



Spurilla braziliana (SS)



Eubranchus inabai (EH)



Bornella hermanni (SS)



Phyllodesmium crypticum (BE)



Phyllodesmium macphersonae (SS)

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Crosslandia viridis (KGJ)



Vayssieria caledonica (MN)



Aredeadoris averni (TNYD)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

- all of you for your enthusiastic participation; our local organisers – the team from the Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group; Solitary Islands Marine Park for permits: our sponsors – Jetty Dive and Divequest Mullaway who donated the prizes; our photo judges for Best Photo - Gary Bell and Mark Spencer.



Goniobranchus geometricus (TNYD)

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again in 2021 for another Coffs Coast SSC.

Remember, there are also events in other parts of the country – notification of these will be made through the network of Facebook pages and web sites.

There are some excellent resources for additional information about sea slugs including the most recent (2018) version of *Nudibranch and Sea Slug Identification Indo-Pacific* available as a hard copy or PDF (<http://fishid.com/store/product/reef-nudibranch-identification-tropical-pacific-pdf-ebook/>). Also, here's a link to a **FREE** download which provides an illustrated summary of data on sea slug distribution patterns in NSW - <http://www.publish.csiro.au/rs/RS16011>. Also, for local species, check out the SURG web pages - <https://www.surg.org.au/species/nudibranchs-and-sea-slugs/group-photographs>.

Don't forget to post any interesting finds from the region to the *Sea Slug Census* Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaslugcensus/>).

You can also email them to: seaslugcensus@scu.edu.au

Steve Smith (steve.smith@scu.edu.au) and Matt Nimbs (matt.nimbs@gmail.com)



The judges' award for Best Photo went to this great image of *Dendrodoris guttata* by **Elizabeth Hardaker**.