

The 3rd Melbourne Sea Slug Census

15-18 March 2019

Thanks to everyone who participated in the March 2019 Melbourne Sea Slug Census. In spite of reports of slugs being few and far between there was still a good result. This is proof of the power of citizen scientists pooling their skills and resources to gather data when target groups are scarce, or at least seem so. Teams and individuals searched for slugs across a broad area with photos submitted from the following locations: Point Cook, Beaumaris, Blairgowrie, Boar Fish Reef, Davey Bay, Flinders, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary, Sorrento, Fossil Beach, Point Lonsdale, Ricketts Point, Rye, St Leonards, Portsea and Port Phillip Bay Party Reef.

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest species count) – congratulations to the team **Rebecca Lloyd** and **Chris Hurwood** who both submitted photos of the most species of sea slug (28 species each) but, interestingly, not all the same species. Rebecca and Chris were followed by Nick Shaw (8 species).

BEST PHOTO (Judged by Victorian National Parks Association Team) – **Nick Shaw**, *Phyllodesmium macphersonae*.

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES (Awarded by Bob Burn) – Chris Hurwood and Rebecca Lloyd – *Dermatobranchus rubidus*.

Together, we found a total of 82 individual slugs from **42 species**. Well done all! The most observed species was the conspicuous *Ceratosoma brevicaudatum* (12 observations) followed by *Tambja verconis* (6 observations).

To keep developing those identification skills, and to alert you all to some of the species you may have overlooked in the past, we have selected an image of each species found and provided the number of teams/individuals that found it. The initials of the photographer that took the image are shown in brackets after the species name.



Best photo:
Phyllodesmium macphersonae
– by Nick Shaw

Teams/Photographers: Andrew Christie, Cathy Cavallo, Marine Care Ricketts Point (photos by Chris Forbes), Chris Hurwood, Dave Morley, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group (photos by Nicole Mertens), Kane, Jo, Ethan, Amelie Travis, Liz Harper, Michael Gibbs, Michael Roast, Nick Shaw, Nicole Mertens, Rebecca Lloyd, Roy Joyce, Simon Meyer, Stephen Lau, Sue Letinger & Ting Ting Lee.



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (MG)
(12 sightings)



Tambja verconis (LH)
(6 sightings)



Doto pita (CH)
(4 sightings)



Verconia haliclona (NS)
(4 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (RL)
(3 sightings)



Goniobranchus tinctorius complex (RL)
(3 sightings)



Pleurobranchus hilli (SL)
(3 sightings)



Chromodoris alternata (RL)
(2 sightings)



Coryphellina poenicia (CH)
(2 sightings)



Coryphellina sp. RB1 (CH)
(2 sightings)



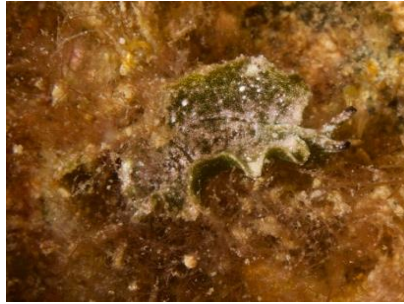
Dermatobranchus rubidus (CH)
(2 sightings)



Doris cameroni (CH)
(2 sightings)



Doris chrysoderma (RL)
(2 sightings)



Elysia maoria (RL)
(2 sightings)



Lamellaria australis (RL)
(2 sightings)



Thorunna arbuta (CH)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia catachroma (CH)
(2 sightings)



Austraeolis ornata (RL)
(1 sighting)



Berthellina citrina (CH)
(1 sighting)



Facelina sp. (CH)
(1 sighting)



Carminodoris nodulosa (CH)
(1 sighting)



Discodoris paroa (RL)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris arborescens (AC)
(1 sighting)



Sclerodoris tarka (CH)
(1 sighting)



Doriopsilla carneola (CH)
(1 sighting)



Doriopsilla peculiaris (RL)
(2 sightings)



Doto ostenta (NS)
(1 sighting)



Ercolania boodlea (CH)
(1 sighting)



Eubranchus sp. RB9 (CH)
(1 sighting)



Eubranchus sp. 1 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Favorinus sp. (RL)
(1 sighting)



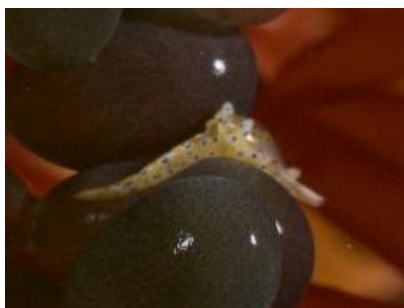
Goniobranchus epicurius (RL)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoris meracula (RL)
(1 sighting)



Ilbia ilbi (RL)
(1 sighting)



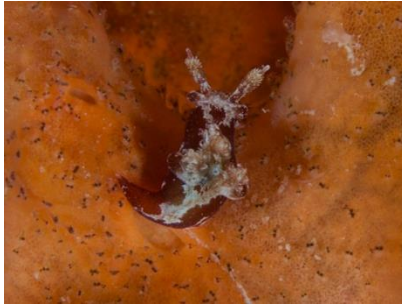
Oxynoe jacksoni (RL)
(1 sighting)



Tubulinophilinopsis lineolata (RL)
(1 sighting)



Phyllodesmium macphersonae (NS)
(1 sighting)



Trapania brunnea (RL)
(1 sighting)



Tambja dracomus (CH)
(1 sighting)



Lamellaria sp. (RL)
(1 sighting)



Verconia verconis (CH)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. RB10 (CH)
(1 sighting)

Thanks to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation and to the amazing organizing team led by Kade Mills.

Our sponsors – Academy of Scuba, Aquability, Aquatic Adventures, Australian Diving Instruction, Dive and Dive, Diveline, Dive2U, Port Phillip EcoCentre, Ocean Divers, Redboats, Scuba Culture, See All Dolphin Swims and Melbourne Sealife Aquarium.

Bob Burn for assistance with identification and for choosing the most interesting find.

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the next Melbourne Sea Slug Census..

Remember, there are also events in other parts of the country – notification of these will be made through the network of Facebook and web sites. Sea Slug Census <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaslugcensus/>

Steve Smith and Matt Nimbs

National Marine Science Centre
Southern Cross University