

The Second Sydney Sea Slug Census

19th November 2016

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2nd Sydney Sea Slug Census. We spread ourselves over a wider range of sites and habitats this year and, as a result, managed to increase the total species count substantially. Divers searched subtidal habitats at Kurnell, Bare Island and Chowder Bay and many interesting finds were also made in intertidal habitats on some of the region's rocky shores. A total 20 participants submitted photos by the due date. We managed to generate some good publicity around the event, especially with the discovery of specimens of the very elusive *Spurilla macleayi*.

And now to the results you've all been waiting for ...

BEST NUDE SPOTTERS (with the highest count on the day) Tom & Nicola Davis with 18 species¹. Now, the Davis team are not eligible for prizes on their home patch at Nelson Bay (as members of the "science team") but the panel recognised that their lack of previous knowledge of the dive site, plus their interesting finds, make them worthy winners this time around.

BEST PHOTO – There were some excellent entries and 12 were shortlisted. In the end, the panel chose Duncan Heuer's image of *Miamira magnifica* as the winner because of its visual impact (see below) (the other entries featuring this species were also spectacular).

Together, we found a total of 53 species of sea slug.

To help hone those identification skills, and to alert you all to some of the species you may have overlooked in the past, I have selected an image of each species found and provided the number of dive teams that found it (out of a total of 10). The initials of the dive team that took the image are shown in brackets (key at the bottom of this page). (Apologies to Ash and Ian – for some reason your images would only copy across at very low resolution and so I couldn't use them).



Duncan Heuer's
winning image of
Miamira magnifica
at Kurnell

Teams: A&I – Ashley Smith and Ian Medcalf; D&K – Dan Vaughan and Kate Parsons; D&C – Duncan Heuer and Charli Elliott; DL – Denise Lawler; JT – John Turnbull; KD – Kim Dinh; L&M – Lou de Bouzeville and Martin Puchert; PKJ – Peter Davey, Kris O'Keefe & Jorge; S & M – Steve Smith/Matt Nimbs; T&N - Tom and Nicola Davis.

¹ John Turnbull also found 18 species, and Matt Nimbs and Steve Smith found 34 species but have opted out of the competition.



Dorisprismatica atromarginata (A&I)
(10 sightings)



Hypselodoris bennetti (S&M)
(9 sightings)



Pteraeolidia iantheta (D&C)
(9 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (T&N)
(9 sightings)



Goniobranchus splendidus (D&K)
(7 sightings)



Aphelodoris varia (L&M)
(6 sightings)



Goniobranchus hunterae (KD)
(6 sightings)



Goniobranchus loringi (JT)
(6 sightings)



Goniobranchus thompsoni (PKJ)
(6 sightings)



Glossodoris angasi (J&B)
(4 sightings)



Bullina lineata (T&N)
(4 sightings)



Goniobranchus daphne (JT)
(4 sightings)



Noumea haliclona (T&N)
(4 sighting)



Elysia sp. 1 (JT)
(3 sightings)



Goniobranchus woodwardae (D&K)
(3 sightings)



Diversidoris sulphurea (T&N)
(2 sightings)



Doris chryso-derma (D&C)
(2 sightings)



Elysia maoria (T&N)
(2 sighting)



Miamira magnifica (D&C)
(2 sightings)



Okenia atkinsonorum (KD)
(2 sightings)



Flabellina rubrolineata (KD)
(1 sighting)



Aplysia juliana (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Aplysia parvula (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Aplysia sydneyensis(S&M)
(1 sighting)



Australolis ornata (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Bornella hermanni (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Cratena lineata (KD)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris gunnamatta (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris nigra (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Dolabella auricularia (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Dolabrifera brazieri (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Aeolidiella alba (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus tasmaniensis (JT)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoris cf. violacea (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Hallaxa michaeli (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Hancockia burni (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Hoplodoris nodulosa (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Hydatina physis (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Hypselodoris obscura (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Jorunna hartleyi (S&M)
(1 sighting)



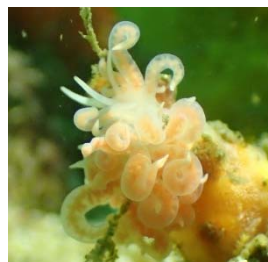
Jorunna sp. 1 (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Jorunna sp. 2 (JT)
(1 sighting)



Oxynoe viridis (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Phyllodesmium poindimiei (KD)
(1 sighting)



Pleurobranchaea maculata (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Pleurobranchus peronii (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Rostanga arbutus (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Rostanga australis (I&B)
(1 sighting)



Spurilla braziliana (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Spurilla macleayi (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Trapania brunnea (J&Y)
(1 sighting)



Umbraculum umbraculum (JT)
(1 sighting)



Okenia mija (T&N)
(1 sighting)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation and to the amazing URG organising team led by Rianti.

Our sponsors: Adreno Scuba; Abyss Scuba Diving; and the Australian Marine Science Association (NSW Branch)).

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the 2017 event in Sydney. 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.

Steve Smith