

The 6th Sydney Sea Slug Census

7-8 November 2020

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 6th Sydney Sea Slug Census. This year we received data from 25 participants who covered sites including Bare Island, Clifton Gardens, Blue Fish Point (North Head), Camp Cove, Inscription Point and Long Reef rock platform. Participants spread their efforts over the 2 days of the census with many covering 2 different sites. With 53 species photographed, the count was much higher than last year (29 in 2019 – but terrible sea conditions!)

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count for the Census) – **Team Party Boy** (see below for the team list) blitzed it with a massive 40 species. Some great spotters in this team and some very nice images too!

BEST PHOTO – Many good images were submitted, but the title of best photo was awarded to **Team Party Boy** for a face-on image of *Janolus* sp. Syd6 (see page 5).

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES – There is no doubt about the most interesting species found this year – the incredibly beautiful *Janolus* sp. Syd6 (below, left). This undescribed species has not been found in any other census event (including outside Sydney). Judging by the fact that it was found by 3 teams, it was present in reasonable abundance amongst its host bryozoan. A very close runner-up was the colourful *Okenia janjukia* photographed by **Minh Tran** (below, right).



Most interesting species *Janolus* sp. Syd6
- photo by **Kris O’Keeffe**



Runner-up *Okenia janjukia*
- photo by **Minh Tran**

Out of the total of **53 species** of sea slug – **10** had not been found recorded in previous Sydney Sea Slug Censuses (indicated with # in the report).

The format of the 2020 report is a little different to previous years, with species presented in their phylogenetic order. This means that species are grouped by their broad taxonomic classification which means that it is easier to compare similar animals. We also provide the total number of groups that recorded them as well as the initials of the photographer/team.

Participants/Teams: Charlie Elliott (CE), Monique Lissen (ML) & Allyson Groth (AG); Chris Ross (CR); Dan Vaughan (DV); Eric Schlögl (ES); John Turnbull (JT), Lou de Beuzeville (LdB) & Martin Puchert (MP); Jon Wilson (JW); Josh Batchelor (JB) & Lindsey Gilbert (LG); Kris O’Keeffe (KoK) & Kim Dinh (KD); Minh Tran (MT) & Belinda Thompson (BT); Salvatore Gambacurta, Adad Were, Felipe Malbec & Steve Coutts (Team Party Boy - TPB); Shelley Xia (SX) & David Painter (DP); Suzanna Cowling (SC3); Victoria Gray (VG) & Nuria Rubio (NR).



Bullina lineata (SX)
(4 sightings)



Hydatina physis (DV)
(3 sightings)



Elysia sp. 1 (JB)
(5 sightings)



Aplysia sydneyensis (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Dolabella auricularia (ES)
(2 sightings)



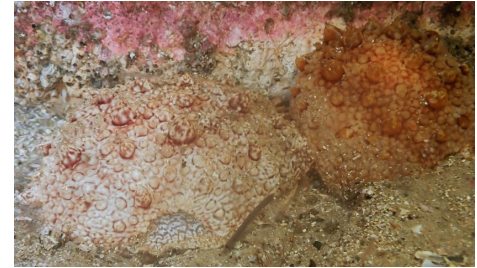
Umbraculum umbraculum (KoK)
(1 sighting)



Berthellina citrina (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Pleurobranchaea maculata (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Pleurobranchus hilli (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Polycera capensis (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Polycera janjukia (MT)
(1 sighting)



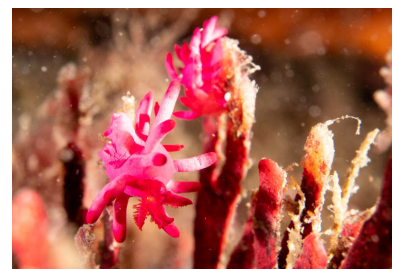
Kaloplocamus ramosus (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Plocamopherus imperialis (TPB)
(3 sightings)



Tambja tenuilineata (KoK)
(1 sighting)



Okenia atkinsonorum (JT)
(3 sightings)



Okenia mija (MT)
(4 sightings)



Gymnodoris sp. 2 GC (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Doris chrysoderma (CE)
(10 sightings)



Aphelodoris varia (MT)
(10 sightings)



Discodoris sp. Syd6 (TPB)
(1 sighting)



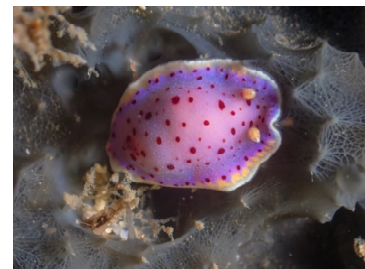
Carminodoris nodulosa (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Atagema intecta (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus hunterae (CE)
(7 sightings)



Goniobranchus loringi (TPB)
(7 sightings)



Goniobranchus splendidus (SC3)
(11 sightings)



Goniobranchus tasmaniensis (JT)
(5 sightings)



Goniobranchus thompsoni (JT)
(7 sightings)



Goniobranchus woodwardae (CR)
(4 sightings)



Glossodoris angasi (SX)
(3 sightings)



Doriprismatica atomarginata (SX)
(12 sightings)



Diversidoris sulphurea (JT)
(1 sighting)



Verconia haliclona (CE)
(2 sightings)



Hypselodoris bennetti (CR)
(12 sightings)



Hypselodoris obscura (CE)
(4 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (VG)
(12 sightings)



Doriposilla carneola (TPB)
(1 sighting)



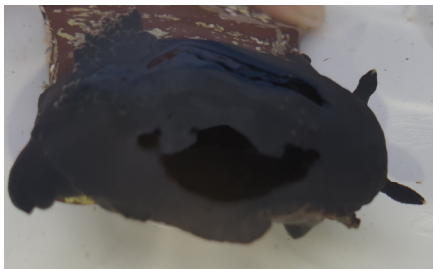
Dendrodoris fumata (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris gunnamatta (TPB)
(2 sightings)



Dendrodoris krusensternii (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris nigra (DV)
(2 sightings)



Armina papillata (ES)
(1 sighting)



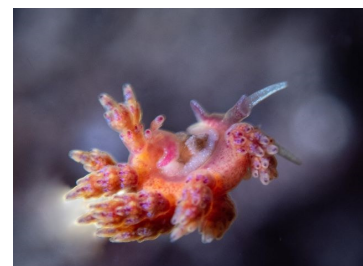
Janolus sp. 1 (KD)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. Syd6 (MT)
(3 sightings)



Doto cf. *pita* (KD)
(2 sightings)



Doto ostenta (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Coryphellina lotos (MT)
(2 sightings)



Coryphellina poenicia (CE)
(1 sightings)



Cratena lineata (TPB)
(12 sightings)



Tenellia ornata (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Tenellia sp. Syd6 (TPB)
(12 sightings)



#* *Tularia bractea*
(1 sighting)



Austreaolis ornata (TPB)
(1 sighting)



Pteroaolida ianthina (CR)
(12 sightings)



Best photo – *Janolus* sp. Syd6 taken by Team Party Boy

* This photo was taken by Peter Davey at Nelson Bay as the supplied image did not show sufficient detail to help identify the species

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation and to the URG organising team who once again put on a great and popular event.

Our sponsor - Marine Explorer (John Turnbull) - www.marineexplorer.org

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the 2021 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 (the main one, Sea Slug Census, can be found at this address:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaslugcensus/>

You might also be interested in 2 recent publications that provide illustrated lists for: i) the coastal species of NSW; and, 2) the species occurring at Lord Howe Island. Both can be downloaded free of charge at the following links:

Coastal NSW - www.publish.csiro.au/rs/pdf/rs16011

Lord Howe Island - www.publish.csiro.au/rs/pdf/RS20002

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