

The Fourth Sydney Sea Slug Census

3-4 November 2018

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 4th Sydney Sea Slug Census. This year we received data from 22 participants who covered sites including Bare Island, Clifton Gardens, The Steps (Kurnell), Henry's Head, The Monument, Oak Park and Camp Cove. As for the first three Census events, the majority of search effort focused on Bare Island. And now to the results you've all been waiting for ...

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count for the Census) – **Dan Vaughan and Sandra Gendera** photographed 38 species across their 4 dive sites to top the list this year. **Deb and Ted Aston and Kim Dinh** (at Clifton Gardens) and **Josh Moloney and John Turnbull** (at Bare Island) also recorded an impressive number of species with 28 and 24, respectively.

BEST PHOTO – *Nembrotha purpureolineata* by Wilson Leung and Kathy Law (see below).

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES – *Armina papillata* photographed by the D&T&K as well as T&S&W&K (see key to abbreviations below). This species spends most of its time buried in the sand, generally emerging at night to feed on octocorals. As a result, it is seldom seen by divers. This is the first time it has been recorded in the Sydney SSC program.

Together, we found a total of **61 species** of sea slug. **Fourteen (14) of these had not been found in the last 3 censuses (indicated with a *)**

To help hone 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 dive teams that found it (out of a total of 10). They are presented in the order from commonest to rarest based on the number of teams that found them. The initials of the dive team that took the image are shown in brackets (key at the bottom of this page).



This year's winning image was taken by Wilson Leung and Kathy Law at The Steps, Kurnell, and features the highly photogenic *Nembrotha purpureolineata*.

Teams: D&S – Dan Vaughan & Sandra Gendera; D&T&K – Deb & Ted Aston & Kim Dinh; J&J – Josh Moloney & John Turnbull; J&K – Janet Abbott & Kris O'Keeffe; J&L – Josh Batchelor & Lindsey Gilbert; R&S – Robert Fornesca & Sean Irvine; RW – Ron Walsh; T&A – Tom Burd & Alanna Peters; T&S&W&K – Tom Chun, Wilson Leung, Kathy Law; Z&C – Zane Kamat & Charlie Elliott;



Ceratosoma amoenum (Z&C)
(10 sightings)



Aphelodoris varia (Z&C)
(8 sightings)



Doriprismatica atromarginata (Z&C)
(8 sightings)



Hypselodoris bennetti (R&S)
(8 sightings)



Goniobranchus splendidus (T&S&W&K)
(7 sightings)



Pteraeolidia ianthina (D&S)
(7 sightings)



Doris chrysothorax (D&S)
(6 sightings)



Elysia sp. 1 (J&J)
(6 sightings)



Goniobranchus woodwardi (D&S)
(6 sightings)



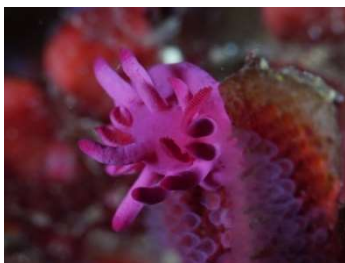
Goniobranchus thompsoni (RW)
(5 sightings)



Bullina lineata (D&T&K)
(4 sightings)



Goniobranchus hunterae (D&S)
(4 sightings)



Okenia atkinsonorum (T&S&W&K)
(4 sightings)



Aplysia sydneyensis (T&S&W&K)
(3 sightings)



Dendrodoris gunnmatta (T&N)
(3 sightings)



Dendrodoris nigra (D&T&K)
(3 sightings)



Glossodoris angasi (D&SM)
(3 sightings)



Goniobranchus loringi (D&S)
(3 sightings)



Hoplodoris nodulosa (T&S&W&K)
(3 sightings)



Jorunna sp. 2 (T&S&W&K)
(3 sightings)



Pleurobranchus peronii (T&S&W&K)
(3 sightings)



Plocamopherus imperialis (T&S&W&K)
(3 sightings)



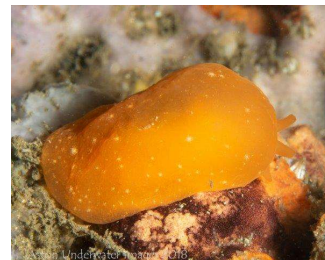
Polycera capensis (T&S&W&K)
(3 sightings)



Aplysia juliana (D&S)
(2 sightings)



*Armina papillata** (D&T&K)
(2 sightings)



Berthellina citrina (D&T&K)
(2 sightings)



Bulla sp.* (D&S)
(2 sightings)



Dendrodoris fumata (D&S)
(2 sightings)



Dendrodoris krusensternii (R&S)
(2 sightings)



Diversidoris sulphurea (J&J)
(2 sightings)



Goniobranchus daphne (J&J)
(2 sightings)



Hydatina physis (D&T&K)
(2 sightings)



*Doto ostenta** (D&T&K)
(2 sightings)



*Okenia sp.** (J&K)
(2 sightings)



Paliolla cooki (J&J)
(2 sightings)



Tayuva lilacina (D&T&K)
(2 sightings)



*Atagema sp.** (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Austraeolis ornata (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (J&K)
(1 sighting)



Chromodoris striatella (J&J)
(1 sighting)



Dolabella auricularia (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Doriopsilla peculiaris (D&S)
(1 sighting)



*Eubranchus sp.** (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



*Geitodoris sp.** (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus tasmaniensis (J&K)
(1 sighting)



Verconia haliclona (D&S)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoris cf. violacea (J&J)
(1 sighting)



Gymnodoris alba (J&J)
(1 sighting)



Hancockia burni (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Hypselodoris obscura (RW)
(1 sighting)



Jorunna pantherina (D&S)#
(1 sighting)



Jorunna ramicola (D&S)
(1 sighting)



Kaloplocamus ramosus (D&S)
(1 sighting)



*Nembrotha purpureolineata** (T&S&W&K)
(1 sighting)



Dorid sp.* (D&S)
(1 sighting)



*Tubulophilinopsis lineolata** (J&J)
(1 sighting)



*Phyllodesmium macphersonae** (J&J)
(1 sighting)



Platydorid sp.* (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



*Pleurobranchus hillii** (D&S)
(1 sighting)



*Plocamopherus ceylonicus** (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Umbraculum umbraculum (D&T&K)
(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 sponsor - Marine Explorer (John Turnbull) - www.marineexplorer.org

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the 2019 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. However, the next two are: Nelson Bay, 8 December 2018 with local organisers the Combined Hunter Underwater Group (CHUG) ; and the Coffs Coast from 18-20 January (3 days), a NEW location, with local organisers the Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group (SURG).

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