

The Third Sydney Sea Slug Census 18-19 November 2017

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 3rd Sydney Sea Slug Census. With the added day, doubling the time available to find slugs compared to previous events, we had a great turnout with 41 registered divers, 30 of whom returned data from sites that ranged from Bare Island to Dee Why. Once again Bare Island attracted the most divers but those that ventured into intertidal rock-pools came up with some real gems too. And now to the results you've all been waiting for ...

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count on the day) – the trio of **Deb and Ted Aston and Kim Dinh** were a formidable team combining local knowledge (Kim) with extensive experience and expertise (Deb is the coordinator for Gold Coast Sea Slug Census). **John Turnbull and Lou de Beuzeville** came second closely followed by last year's winners **Tom and Nicola Davis**.

BEST PHOTO – Ron Walsh – mating *Ceratosoma amoenum* (see below).

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES – *Phyllidiella pustulosa* found by Kosta Seiler and Helen Smith. This was chosen by Dr Richard Willan for the following reasons: “(a) phyllidiids are very peculiar nudibranchs morphologically – arguably the most peculiar nudibranchs of all, (b) they are essentially creatures of the tropics, so it's surprising to find this far south and (c) being mature, this individual must have overwintered at this locality. This shows it can persist on a locally-occurring species of sponge. It strongly suggests local recruitment rather than each generation recruiting from further north. Phyllidiids need champions!”

Together, we found a total of **70 species** of sea slug which is a record for Sydney SSC to date. **Twenty-three (23) of these had not been found in the last 2 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 14). The initials of the dive team that took the image are shown in brackets (key at the bottom of this page).



Ron Walsh's winning
image of a mating pair of
Ceratosoma amoenum

Teams: B&M – Belinda Thompson and Minh Tran; D&S – Dan Vaughan and Sandra Gendera; D&T&K – Deb and Ted Aston, Kim Dinh; I&B – Ian Shaw and Bob Edgar; J&L – John Turnbull and Lou de Beuzeville; KoK – Kris O’Keeffe; K&H – Kosta Seiler and Helen Smith; L&T – Lixi Huang (Tony) and Tom Burd; M&J&R – Martin Puchert, Joshua Maloney and Rianti Bieler; N – Nathaniel Tolentino; RW – Ron Walsh; S&M – Steve Smith and Matt Nimbs; T&C – Tom Burd and Claudia Santori; T&N – Tom and Nicola Davis; W&K&T&F – Wilson Leung, Kathy Law, Tom Chun and Frank Bai.



Dorisprismatica atromarginata (RW)
(14 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (B&M)
(14 sightings)



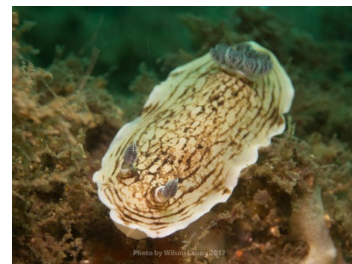
Hypselodoris bennetti (W&K&T&F)
(11 sightings)



Pteraeolidia ianthina (W&K&T&F)
(10 sightings)



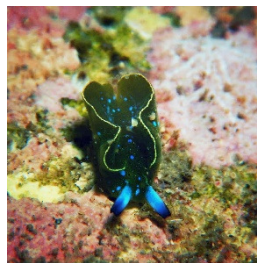
Goniobranchus splendidus (RW)
(8 sightings)



Aphelodoris varia (W&K&T&F)
(8 sightings)



Doris chrysoderma (D&T&K)
(7 sightings)



Elysia sp. 1 (L&T)
(7 sightings)



Goniobranchus thompsoni (B&M)
(7 sightings)



Glossodoris angasi (T&N)
(7 sightings)



Plocamopherus imperialis (S&M)
(6 sightings)



Goniobranchus hunterae (D&T&K)
(6 sightings)



Pleuorbranchus peronii (M&J&R)
(6 sighting)



Goniobranchus loringi (top – T&N)
(6 sightings)



Bethellina citrina (M&J&R)
(5 sightings)



*Aplysia argus** (S&M)
(4 sightings)



Hoplodoris nodulosa (S&M)
(4 sightings)



Hypselodoris sp. 2* (B&M)
(4 sightings)



Aplysia juliana (J&L)
(3 sightings)



Aplysia sydneyensis (S&M)
(3 sightings)



Dendrodoris nigra (S&M)
(3 sightings)



Dolabella auricularia (S&M)
(3 sightings)



Goniobranchus tasmaniensis (T&N)
(4 sightings)



Goniobranchus woodwardae (T&N)
(3 sightings)



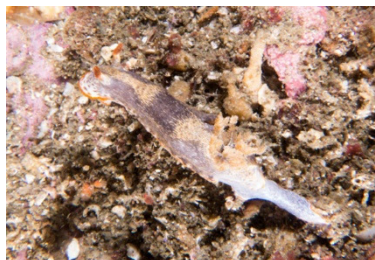
Goniodoris cf. *violacea* (T&N)
(3 sightings)



Jorunna sp. 2 (S&M)
(4 sightings)



*Platydoris galbana** (T&N)
(3 sightings)



*Chromodoris striatella** (J&L)
(2 sightings)



Dendrodoris gunnamatta (S&M)
(2 sightings)

* This may well be a colour variation of *Hypselodoris obscura* but we are separating these at the moment



Diversidoris sulphurea (D&T&K)
(2 sightings)



Dolabrifera brazieri (J&L)
(2 sightings)



Doto ostenta⁺ (S&M)
(2 sightings)



Goniobranchus daphne (T&N)
(2 sightings)



Kaloplocamus ramosus⁺ (M&J&R)
(2 sightings)



Verconia haliclona (T&N)
(2 sightings)



Spurilla braziliana (J&L)
(2 sightings)



Trapania brunnea (T&N)
(2 sightings)



Umbraculum umbraculum (J&L)
(2 sightings)



Aplysia parvula (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Atagema albata⁺ (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Austreaolis ornata (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Bullina lineata (J&L)
(2 sightings)



Caldukia affinis⁺ (S&M)
(1 sighting)



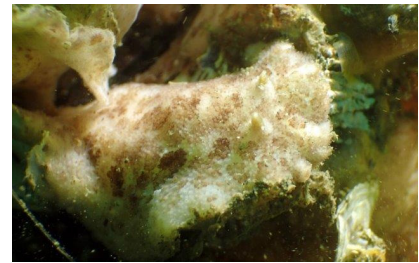
Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (J&L)
(1 sighting)



Cratena lineata (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris fumata⁺ (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Sebadoris fragilis⁺ (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Elysia australis⁺ (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Flabellina rubrolineata (KoK)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoridella savignyi⁺ (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Gymnodoris alba (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Hallaxa michaeli (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Haminoea cymbalum⁺ (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. 1 (orange) (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. 2 (purple)⁺ (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Jorunna ramicola⁺ (W&K&T&F)
(1 sighting)



Jorunna pantherina (S&M)
(1 sighting)



Okenia atkinsonorum (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Paliolla cooki (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Phyllidiella pustulosa (K&H)
(1 sighting)



Polycera capensis⁺ (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Polycera hedgepethi⁺ (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Sclerodoris tarka⁺ (T&N)
(1 sighting)



Stylocheilus striatus⁺ (D&T&K)
(1 sighting)



Tambja tenuilineata⁺ (J&L)
(1 sighting)



Tambja verconis⁺ (D&S)
(2 sightings)



Tayuva lilacina⁺ (J&L)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sibogae⁺ (I&B)
(1 sighting)



Flabellina poenicia⁺ (J&L)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus aureopurpureus⁺ (D&S)
(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 and the Bieler family.

Dr Richard Willan for assistance with identification, for choosing the most interesting find, and for helping to judge the best photo.

Matt Nimbs, Rianti Bieler and John Turnbull for helping to judge the best photo.

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the 2018 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 (steve.smith@scu.edu.au)