

The Fifth Sydney Sea Slug Census

9-10 November 2019

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 5th Sydney Sea Slug Census. This year we received data from 19 participants who covered sites including Bare Island, Clifton Gardens, The Steps (Kurnell), Fairlight Beach and Inscription Point. Thanks for braving the less than ideal conditions to generate data for the yearly census! The species count was well down on the 4 previous years with a total of just 25 species. It has been suggested that this low count was not just because of the poor conditions but also a genuine paucity of species that have been quite common in other events.

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count for the Census) – the large team that dived The Steps recorded a total of 15 species to take out the title for this year. **Congratulations to Wilson Leung, Tom Chun, Frank Bai, Steven Kong, Agnes Chan and Kathy Law!**

BEST PHOTO – Many good images were submitted, but the title of best photo was awarded to **Minh Tran** for her image of the common but undescribed *Elysia* sp.

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES – While we've found this little species before in previous surveys, the bizarre little *Limacia ornata* was a great find by the team that dived The Steps. This little slug is less than 1cm long and takes a lot of finding!



Best photo by Minh Tran (*Elysia* sp.)



Most interesting species – *Limacia ornata* – photo by Wilson Leung

Together, we found a total of **28 species** of sea slug – 2 of these had not been recorded in previous census events (*Madrella sanguinea* and *Dendrodoris arborescens*)

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 8). They are presented in the order from commonest to rarest based on the number of teams that found them. The initials of the photographer who took the image are shown in brackets (key at the bottom of this page).

Teams: Claudia Santori (CS) & Tom Burd (TB); John Turnbull (JT) & Lou de Beuzeville (LdB); Josh Batchelor (JB) & Lindsey Gilbert (LG); Jens Sommer-Knudson (JS-K); Deb Aston (DA) & Ted Aston; Josh Moloney (JM) & John Turnbull (JT); Wilson Leung (WL), Tom Chun (TC), Frank Bai (FB), Steven Kong (SK), Agnes Chan (AC) & Kathy Law (KL); Minh Tran (MT) & Belinda Thompson (BT).



Ceratosoma amoenum (FB)
(8 sightings)



Doriprismatica atromarginata (SK)
(6 sightings)



Aphelodoris varia (DA)
(4 sightings)



Elysia sp. 1 (MT)
(4 sightings)



Goniobranchus splendidus (JT)
(4 sightings)



Goniobranchus thompsoni (WL)
(3 sightings)



Hypselodoris bennetti (FB)
(3 sightings)



Dolabella auricularia (LdB)
(3 sightings)



Aplysia argus (JM)
(2 sightings)



Bullina lineata (SK)
(2 sightings)



Jorunna sp. 2 (CS)
(2 sightings)



Pteraeolidia ianthina (WL)
(2 sightings)



Berthellina citrina (DA)
(1 sighting)



Doris chrysoderma (WL)
(1 sighting)



Geitodoris sp. (DA)
(1 sighting)



Glossodoris angasi (WL)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus hunterae (LdB)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus woodwardae (WL)
(1 sighting)



Carminodoris nodulosa (DA)
(1 sighting)



Hydatina physis (WL)
(1 sighting)



Hypselodoris obscura (MT)
(1 sighting)



Kaloplocamus ramosus (DA)
(1 sighting)



Limacia ornata (WL)
(1 sighting)



Okenia atkinsonorum (WL)
(1 sighting)



Polycera capensis (MT)
(1 sighting)



Umbraculum umbraculum (JT)
(1 sighting)



**Madrella sanguinea* (JB)
(1 sighting)



Dendrodoris arborescens (left)
Dendrodoris nigra (right) (DA)
(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 2020 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.

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