

The second Melbourne Sea Slug Census – Results

12-15 October 2018

A very big thankyou to everyone who participated in the second Melbourne Sea Slug Census. The following report illustrates the incredible diversity of sea slugs found in this census. **A total of 75 species were found** across the four days. Surveyed areas spanned a range of habitats from intertidal rock platforms to subtidal reefs.

Selecting the winning **Best Image** was a challenge, and, by only a narrow margin, from amongst some fantastic photos, the winning photo was taken of *Flabellina* sp. by Jack Breedon at Blairgowrie. As summarised by one of the judges “. . . *it had the best composition, with an interesting foreground, clean background and the subject itself pulling a nice dynamic pose.*” The winning image below:



We are grateful to Bob Burn for identifying the animals photographed in this census and for selecting the **most interesting find** (next page), which is *Dendronotus* sp. found by Rebecca Lloyd and Chris Hurwood – in spite of decades of work in southern Australia, Bob has “never found one in all his years, and has only ever seen it alive in one image. It is a beautiful photo of a beautiful nudibranch”. Congratulations also go to Rebecca and Chris who found the most slugs in this census – an incredible collection of images totalling **50 species**, a count that is more than double the nearest runner up.



Dendronotus sp. found by Rebecca Lloyd and Chris Hurwood

The following pages illustrate the species found in this second census. These photos were selected to illustrate the majority of critical features used for identification. In acknowledgement, the **photographers** were: IS – Ian Scholey; IL – Ivan Leong; JB – Jack Breedon; JC – Jarrod Cooper; JMSC – Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group; JW – Julie Wrighton; MVD – Mitch Van Dyke; NaS – Naomi Strong; NO – Nick Olliff; NiS – Nick Shaw; NF – Nicki Filby; NM – Nicole Mertens; RP – Rachel Price; RL&CH – Rebecca Lloyd and Chris Hurwood; TL – Ting Ting Lee; and MR – Marcia Reiderer.



Doris immonda (RL&CH) - 1 sighting



Goniodoridella savignyi (RL&CH) - 1 sighting



Thorunna arbuta (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Facelina sp. [RB] (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Flabellina sp. (MR) - 7 sightings



Thecacera pennigera (JW) - 5 sightings



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (RP) – 5 sightings



Polycera hedgpethi (NiS) – 6 sightings



Tambja verconis (NaS) – 5 sightings



Ercolania boodlea (JB) – 5 sightings



Polycera janjukia (NiS) – 4 sightings



Trinchesia catachroma (JB) – 4 sightings



Madrella sanguinea (JB) - 4 sightings



Pleurobranchus hilli (NaS) - 4 sightings



Discodoris paroa (JB) – 4 sightings



Elysia maoria (JB) – 3 sightings



Goniobranchus epicurius (JB) – 3 sightings



Verconia haliclona (JMCS) – 3 sightings



Philinopsis taronga (JB) – 3 sightings



Doriopsilla carneola (NaS) – 3 sightings



Austreaolis ornata (NaS) - 3 sightings



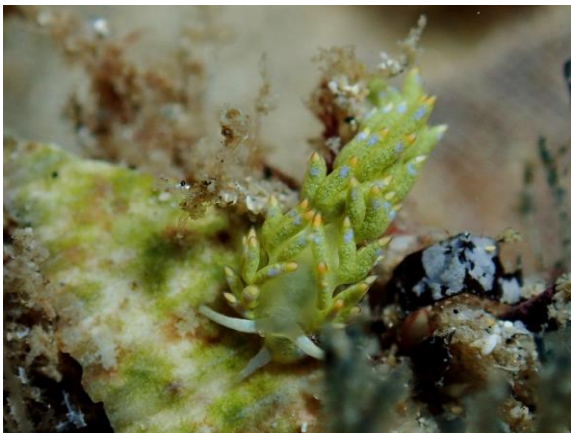
Philinopsis speciosa (RL&CH) - 3 sightings



Flabellina poenicia (JB) - 2 sightings



Goniobranchus tinctorius (JB) - 2 sightings



Trinchesia sp. [RB2] (JB) - 2 sightings



Elysia coodgensis (MVD) - 2 sightings



Doris cameroni (RL&CH) - 2 sightings



Facelina hartleyi (RL&CH) - 1 sightings



Kaloplocamus ramosus (NaS) - 2 sightings



Chromodoris alternata (NaS) - 2 sightings



Hoplodoris nodulosa (NaS) - 2 sightings



Favorinus sp. [RB1] (NiS) - 2 sightings



Verconia closeorum (RP) - 2 sightings



Trinchesia scintillans (NiS) - 1 sightings



Trinchesia thelmae (NiS) - 2 sightings



?*Cumanotus* sp. (RL&CH) - 2 sightings



Dendrodoris arborescens (JB) - 2 sightings



Ceratosoma amoenum (JB) - 1 sighting



Madrella sanguinea (NiS) – 1 sighting



Verconia verconis (JB) – 1 sighting



Tritonia sp. (JB) – 1 sighting



Phyllodesmium serratum (JB) – 1 sighting



Placida sp. (JB) – 1 sighting



Ercolania margaritae (MVD) – 1 sighting



Hallaxa sp. (NaS) - 1 sighting



Pleurobranchaea maculata (NaS) - 1 sighting



Janolus hyalinus (IS) – 1 sighting



Baeolidia australis (NaS) – 1 sighting



Trapania aureopunctata (NaS) – 1 sighting



? *Cadlina* sp. (NiS) – 1 sighting



Doto ostenta (NiS) – 1 sighting



Doto pita (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Ercolania sp. (NiS) - 1 sighting



Hermaea sp.(NiS) - 1 sighting



Philine angasi (NiS) – 1 sighting



Tubulophilinopsis lineolatus (NM) – 1 sighting



Eubranchus sp. 1 (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Eubranchus sp. 2 (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Eubranchus sp. 3 (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Jorunna crawfordi (RL&CH) – 2 sightings



Jorunna sp. (RL&CH) - 1 sighting



Elysia sp.(RL&CH) - 1 sighting



Ancula sp. [RB2] (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Anteaeolidiella lurana (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Goniodoris meracula (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Janolus sp. (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Jorunna pantherina (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Polycera melanosticta (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Discodoris sp.(RL&CH) - 1 sighting



Lamellaria sp. (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Dendrodoris aurea (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Doto cf. *pita* (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Dorid. sp. (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Dendronotus sp. (RL&CH) – 1 sighting



Doris chrysothorax (RL&CH) – 1 sighting

The *Sea Slug Census* is a citizen science program based on social franchise. As a community-based initiative we seek to document the biodiversity of our oceans through collaboration between citizen scientists, photographers, divers and scientists.

The founding partners are: Southern Cross University's National Marine Science Centre, Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park, and the Combined Hunter Underwater Group.

We are very grateful to the local organisers, the Victorian National Parks Association, and to Bob Burn for confirming the identity of some of the species found.

The Melbourne, Vic censuses are part of a growing list of other *Sea Slug Census* activities that take place throughout the year across Australasia. Participants are welcome to get involved with programs at other locations including: NSW - Lord Howe Island, South Coast, Sydney, Port Stephens, Swansea; QLD - Gold Coast; and Ambon, Indonesia.

Coming censuses include: Port Stephens, NSW in December 2018; Coffs Coast, NSW January 18-20 2019; and Lord Howe Island, February, 2019.

For continuous updates on current and future *Sea Slug Censuses* go to the Facebook page *Sea Slug Census* -

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

Congratulations again to all participants for another successful census.

Matt Nimbs and Steve Smith
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