

The Melbourne Sea Slug Census

4-7 October 2019

Thanks to everyone who participated in the October 2019 Melbourne Sea Slug Census. We had a great turnout with more than 100 people searching for slugs on all sides of Port Philip Bay, Westernport and beyond, and we received images from 25 teams. The list of sites examined included: Flinders, Lonsdale Wall, Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary, Blairgowrie, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary, Lonsdale Pier, Point Lonsdale, Portsea, Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, Rye, Sandringham, Sorrento and Sorrento Back Beach. We were also pleased to receive submissions from western Victoria, including Lee Breakwater and Peasoup.

Together, we found a total of **88 species** of sea slug, a spectacular effort. And now to the results you've all been waiting for ...

BEST NUDI SPOTTERS (with the highest count on the day) – congratulations to **Rebecca Lloyd** who submitted photos of the most species of sea slug (60- a personal best!). Rebecca was closely followed by **Chris Hurwood** (50 species).



BEST PHOTO (Awarded by Tim Hochgrebe, *Underwater Australasia*) – Kim Bremner- *Coryphellina* sp. RB1. “My favourite ...seems like a *Flabellina* with eggs - it's great seeing them laying eggs.”

Tim's number 2 pick went to **Chris Hurwood's** *Phyllodesmium serratum*- “Such beautiful colour and a vibrant shot.”

Kim Bremner's beautiful and ecologically informative photo of *Coryphellina* sp. RB1

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES (Awarded by Bob Burn) – **Rebecca Lloyd**– *Eubranchus* sp. Bob was very excited to see this “glorious” species again, for only the third time (Rebecca had spotted this species outside of a census once before, and Bob had a type specimen from several years ago). With this category a special mention must go to **PT Hirschfield** for her *Melibe* sp. RB3 – as Bob remarked when he saw it, “beautiful”!

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 teams that found it (out of a total of 24). The initials of the photographers that took the image are shown in brackets (key to all photographers who submitted images below).

Photographers: **AN**- Ayisha Nadan, **CH**- Chris Hurwood, **DB**- David Bubner, **EL**- Edward Lee, **HH**- Heidi Harron, **HG**- Honor Gillies, **KBDH**- Kerry Borgula and David Haintz, **KBr**- Kim Bremner, **KD**- Kris Davies, **MD**- Merv Dannefaerd, **MT**- Monica Tewman, **NB**- Natalie Barber, **NF**- Nicki Filby, **NM**- Nicole Mertens, **NO**- Nick Ollif, **NSSW**- Naomi Strong and Steven Walsh, **NSh**- Nick Shaw, **PTH**- PT Hirschfield, **RL**- Rebecca Lloyd, **SC**- Susan Carden **SG**- Steven Goodall, **SK**- Steven Kuitert, **SN**- Sally Nankervis, **SWa**- Sally Watson, **SWe**- Sandy Webb



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (MT)
(11 sightings)



Polycera hedgpethi (KD)
(10 sightings)



Tambja verconis (RL)
(8 sightings)



Coryphellina sp. RB1 (CH)
(7 sightings)



Thecacera pennigera (KBDH)
(7 sightings)



Madrella sanguinea (SK)
(6 sightings)



Elysia coodgeensis (DB)
(5 sightings)



Goniobranchus epicurius (SK)
(5 sightings)



Trinchesia sp. RB2 (EL)
(5 sightings)



Verconia haliclona (NSSW)
(5 sightings)



Chromodoris alternata (RL)
(4 sightings)



Coryphellina poenicia (RL)
(4 sightings)



Doriopsilla peculiaris (CH)
(4 sightings)



Facelina sp. RB3 (NS)
(4 sightings)



Kaloplocamus ramosus (RL)
(4 sightings)



Phyllodesmium serratum (CH)
(4 sightings)



Trapania aureopunctata (NSSW)
(4 sightings)



Trinchesia catachroma (NSh)
(4 sightings)



Austreaolis ornata (RL)
(3 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (RL)
(3 sightings)



Doriopsilla carneola (NB)
(3 sightings)



Doto pita (NS)
(3 sightings)



Ercolania boodlea (RL)
(3 sightings)



Ercolania margaritae (NM)
(3 sightings)



Eubranchus sp. RB12 (CH)
(3 sightings)



Favorinus sp. (SK)
(3 sightings)



Goniobranchus tinctorius (RL)
(3 sightings)



Carminodoris nodulosa (SK)
(3 sightings)



Trapania brunnea (SK)
(3 sightings)



Trinchesia sp. RB5 (NS)
(3 sightings)



Aplysia aff. *parvula* (CH)
(3 sightings)



Aplysiopsis formosa (RL)
(2 sightings)



Baeolidia macleayi (SK)
(2 sightings)



Coryphellina sp. (CH)
(2 sightings)



Discodoris paroa (RL)
(2 sightings)



Doris cameroni
(3 sightings)



Doto ostenta (EL)
(2 sightings)



Eubranchus sp. (RL)
(2 sightings)



Eubranchus sp. RB9 (CH)
(2 sightings)



Gymnodoris alba (NSSW)
(2 sightings)



Hermaea sp. RB1 (NS)
(2 sightings)



Jorunna hartleyi (CH)
(2 sightings)



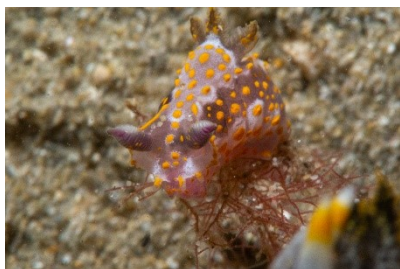
Mexichromis macropus (RL)
(2 sightings)



Tubulophilinopsis lineolata (CH)
(2 sightings)



Phyllodesmium macphersonae (RL)
(2 sightings)



Polycera jankjukia (CH)
(2 sightings)



Rostanga crawfordi (NS)
(2 sightings)



Sclerodoris sp. RB1 (CH)
(2 sightings)



Sclerodoris tarka (NSSW)
(2 sightings)



Tergipes sp. (CH)
(2 sightings)



Trapania benni (RL)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia kuitorum (CH)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia sp. RB10 (RL)
(2 sightings)



Trinchesia sp. RB23 (CH)
(2 sightings)



Tularia bractea (RL)
(2 sightings)



Unknown dorid (RL)
(2 sightings)



Ancula mapae (NS)
(1 sighting)



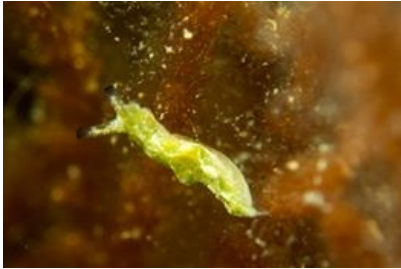
Coryphellina sp. RB2 (CH)
(1 sighting)



Diaphodoris sp. RB1 (CH)
(1 sighting)



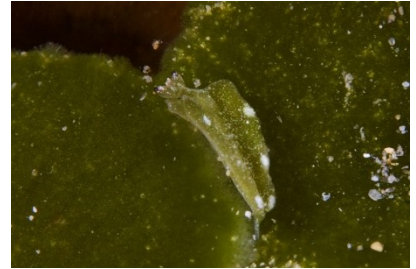
Discodorid sp. (NS)
(1 sighting)



Elysia sp. (HH)
(1 sighting)



Elysia furvacauda (RL)
(1 sighting)



Elysia maoria (RL)
(1 sighting)



Eubranchus cf. *pallidus* (CH)
(1 sighting)



Facelina hartleyi (NS)
(1 sighting)



Facelina newcombi (SK)
(1 sighting)



Goniodoris meracula (SK)
(1 sighting)



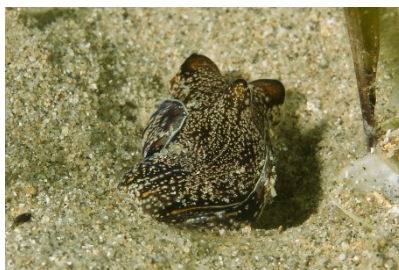
Hermaea sp. (NS)
(1 sighting)



Melibe sp. RB3 (PTH)
(1 sighting)



Papawera maugeansis (RL)
(1 sighting)



Philineopsis taronga (RL)
(1 sighting)



Philine angasi (RL)
(1 sighting)



Placida sp. (SWe)
(1 sighting)



Polycera sp. (SK)
(1 sighting)



Polycera melanosticta (NSSW)
(1 sighting)



Polycera parvula (SK)
(1 sighting)



Roburnella wilsonii (NS)
(1 sighting)



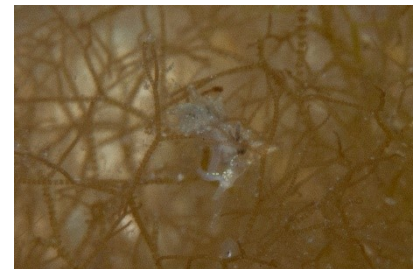
Rostanga sp. (RL)



Thordisa verrucosa (NS)
(1 sighting)



Thorunna arbuta (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. (CH)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. RB7 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. RB14 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia sp. RB24 (RL)
(1 sighting)



Trinchesia thelmae RL)
(1 sighting)



Tritonia sp. RB3 (CH)
(1 sighting)



Unknown aeolid (CH)
(1 sighting)



Unknown velutinid (RL)
(1 sighting)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation!

Parks Victoria's Nicki Filby for encouraging her Sea Search volunteers to be on the lookout for eligible slugs when undertaking intertidal surveys.

Bob Burn for his invaluable assistance with identification and for choosing the most interesting find.

Tim Hochgrebe and Underwater Australasia for donating Neville Coleman's Nudibranchs book as prizes and for judging the Best Photograph category.

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the next Melbourne Sea Slug Census!

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. Sea Slug Census <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaslugcensus/>

Nicole Mertens (local organiser)
Victorian National Parks Association

Steve Smith Matt Nimbs
National Marine Science Centre
Southern Cross University