

australasian nudibranch NEWS



No.1 September 1998

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Noumea simplex (Pease 1860)

This is a common nudibranch on the [Sunshine Coast](#) all year. It can usually be found on a pink/red sponge under rocks at low tide. *Noumea simplex*, *Noumea romeri*, *Hyselodoris punicea* & *Durvilledoris albofimbria* bare a resemblance to each other.

N. simplex can be pink or white with an ill-defined narrow white mantle border. The gills & rhinophores are orange tipped. The gills do not wave rhythmically as do those in some other species. Orange spots may occur on the edge of the mantle of some individuals.

Reference:

W. B. Rudman. The Chromodorididae (Opisthobranchia: Mollusca) of the Indo-Pacific: further species from New Caledonia & the *Noumea romeri* colour group Moll. Res. 16: 1-43 (1995)



Welcome

The intention of this newsletter is to increase the awareness of nudibranchs from the Australasian region. One thing that will become obvious is how little is known about these wonderful little beasts. This applies to much of Australia's fauna and flora. There is still many new species and discoveries to be made.

Until I find a home for this newsletter it is only available by contacting me directly at glaskin@ozemail.com.au. & adding your name to the mailing list. Would you like to adopt the newsletter on your site?

Your input will make this newsletter work. If you are interested in Australasian nudibranchs please participate. Your information will assist to expand all our knowledge. If you want to know about, or you seen something you would like to share, email me. Whether you are a professional researcher or like myself, a keen amateur your comments can be shared.

The Editor

I commenced diving in 1981 & have logged over 960 dives & taken thousands of photographs. Nudibranchs gradually became my main focus. This year I commenced compiling a list of nudibranchs from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia. The list has grown to 60 species & is far from a complete guide. 250 is a conservative estimate.

With my partner Robyn Oxenham, I run Glasshouse Kinesiology, a motivation & health centre focusing on empowering people. When not working we spend time fossicking on rock platforms with our trusty Australian Cattle dog, Marli.

For some light relief, below is a photo which proves the lengths the editor will go to for a dive. The photo was taken in Hawaii several years ago.



Links

Check out these sites for great photos & information.

[Mike Miller's Slug Site](#) – a great reference site

[Australian Museum's Sea Slug Forum](#) – Bill Rudman's site

[The Okinawa Slug Site](#) – Another site to visit regularly

[Sherif's Malaysian Slug Site](#)

[New Zealand Nudibranch Site](#)

[Steve Long's Opisthobranch Site](#) – home of The Opisthobranch Newsletter.

[Mediterranean Slug Site](#) – Erwin Kohler has provided space for my photos.

[Bernard Picton's Home Page](#) - a must see

Location Review

Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia

The Sunshine Coast has a sub-tropical, humid, east coast type climate. An annual cycle of wet season, winter and summer best describes the seasons. Annual rainfall averages between 1700mm and 1900mm with some pockets recording higher levels. Temperatures range from around zero to the high twenties in winter and the low twenties to mid thirties in summer. Water temperature varies from 17° in winter to 28° in summer.

The Sunshine Coast is bounded by Flinders reef (26° 59'S, 153° 29'E) in the south and Double Island Point (25° 56'S 153° 11'E) in the north, one hour north of Brisbane and 4-5 hours south of the southern tip of The Great Barrier Reef.

To the North, Double Island Point, (1) just south of Fraser Island has a large rock platform with lots of interesting areas to explore at low tide. For divers, Wolf Rock (2) is a peak coming up from 40m to 25m. Heading south from Double Island Point along miles of (drivable) open beach you arrive at famous Noosa Heads (3). The Noosa National Park has several rocky headlands. The Fairy Pools in the park have live coral. Diving is available at Jew Shoals & Sunshine Reef as well as other local dive sites. Just south of Noosa is Coolum (4), with its offshore reefs, & Point Arkwright, a rocky headland with several platforms and pools well worth inspecting.

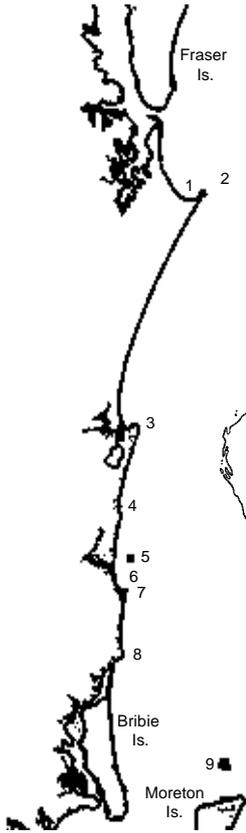
Mudjimba Island (5), 1km offshore, is a good shallow dive site, surrounded by sand with rock & coral reef.

Further south again, Mooloolaba (6) offers the Inner & Outer Gneering reefs. Many of the species included in our survey were sighted in this area. Alexandra Headland north of Mooloolaba & Point Cartwright (7) at the mouth of the Mooloolah River have rock platforms worth a visit.

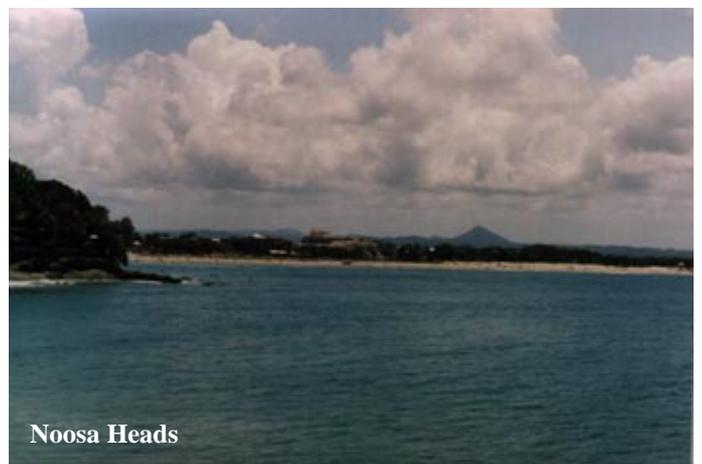
Nudibranchs, cowries & allied cowries are regularly found here. For the more intrepid, diving is possible off the front of this headland.

The rock platforms at Moffat Headland, Shelley Beach, Caloundra (8) & Kings Headland are less productive. Diving here is shallow, surgy & mostly dirty. Limited shallow diving is possible in Pumicestone Passage.

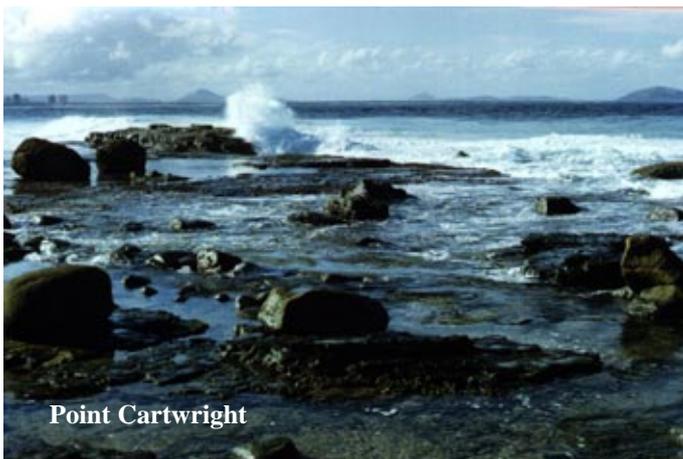
The jewel in the crown is Flinders Reef. (9) Lying several kms north of Moreton Island, it has been described as the best diving south of the Great Barrier Reef. Flinders is a coral reef covering 10 hectares.



Double Island Point



Noosa Heads



Point Cartwright



Point Cartwright

In Review

Myja longicornis Bergh 1896a

On the 6th July 1998 I came across what at first appeared to be *Bornella stillifer* (fig. 1) at Point Cartwright. The animals were feeding on the hydroid, *Halocordyle disticha* in a shallow rock pool. The small white egg spirals wrapped around hydroid indicated their presence. The animal was observed again on 11th & 23rd July at Point Cartwright. Another animal was located at Point Arkwright/Coolum Beach on 22nd & 24th August. Again the egg spirals gave away its location.

Dr Bill Rudman of the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia suspected it was an animal described by Bergh in 1896, from the Genus; *Myja*. A search of the database at Steve Long's site came up with *Myja longicornis* Bergh, 1896a and the following paper: Bergh, L. S. R. 1896a. Eolidiens d'Amboine. Revue Suisse de Zoologie et Annales de Musee d'Histoire Naturelle de Geneve 4:385-394, pl. 16. Voyage de MM. M. Bedot et C. Pictet dans l'Archipel Malais. To date I have been unable to view this paper & confirm this is *M. longicornis*.

Description: The animals were 10-20mm in length when crawling. The body was transparent with red lines down each side. The heart was posterior to the first group of cerata on the left side. The cerata were grouped down the back of the animal in arcs across the back. Each cerata was club like & resembled the hydroid polyps which the animal was feeding on. The ceras tips were transparent with a red/pink line then a white line below that. Small groups of white dots covered the body & were most obvious at the base of the cerata. The base of the cerata was brown. (See fig. 2 & 3).

Eggs masses were white & laid in spirals around the hydroid. Personal observations indicate they hatch in approximately three weeks. No juveniles have been sighted.

Distribution: Bill Rudman mentioned the animal has been recorded in Tanzania, Sydney, & New Calendonia. Rudie Kuitert has a photo in "The Scuba Diver" August 1982 that resembles the animal I am finding.

Behaviour: When resting the animals lie along the stems of the hydroid & are difficult to find as they resemble the hydroid polyps. When feeding they probe with their oral tentacles, retracting rapidly when coming in contact with the polyps stinging arms. I have observed them eating twice. On One occasion the animal attacked the polyp from underneath, taken bits out the polyp until it had worked its way up & along the polyp's body & arms. A second time it attacked its prey head-on, with no regard for the hydroids defences. Fig. 2 shows the animals head to head for an unknown reason.

Remarks: Little seems to be known about this animal & its classification is under review. The photographs of *M. longicornis* are of poor quality, fig. 2, was taken in the field & fig.3, in the lab unfortunately with the wrong coloured background. When more specimens are located I will attempt to obtain better resolution photographs. As stated above, on the first sighting I assumed the animal to be *Bornella stillifer* due to the overall colouring & the presence of the red longitudinal lines. It was only later I realised this animal had oral tentacles & the rhinophores were not those seen on *B. stillifer*.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Dr. Bill Rudman, Dr. Richard Willan, Dr Terry Gosliner, Dr Dave Behrens for their guidance & help. Thanks also to the Department of Primary Industries for assistance with photographing the animal.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

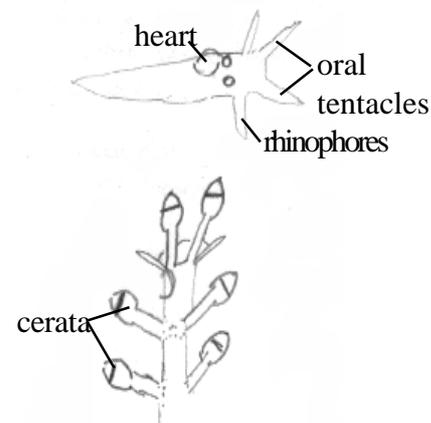


Fig. 4

References: Bergh, L. S. R. 1896a. Eolidiens d'Amboine. Revue Suisse de Zoologie et Annales de Musee d'Histoire Naturelle de Geneve 4:385-394, pl. 16. Voyage de MM. M. Bedot et C. Pictet dans l'Archipel Malais.
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