

The Second Far South Coast (NSW) Sea Slug Census

6th-15th April, 2018

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2nd Far South Coast Sea Slug Census.

The week-long census turned up quite a few interesting animals, however, one in particular stands out. The observation of *Goniobranchus albonares* is an important record. This tropical species has not been reported south of Sydney so far, and this is therefore an important range extension. Such observations reinforce how critical censuses are in far southern NSW for documenting species with shifting range. Whilst the animal in the photograph is clearly *G. albonares*, to illustrate the primary identification features, we have provided a close-up of a specimen found on the north coast where it is observed occasionally. The transparent rhinophore stalks, white-edged rhinophore lamellae and sub-marginal yellow band are characteristic of this species.



Photo: Steve Smith

Altogether, a total of **32 species** of sea slug was found which is a record for the Far South Coast Census to date. Last census 31 species were found.

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, as number of sightings. The initials of the survey team/photographer that took the image are shown in brackets (key below).

Participants: (KW & RC) Kerryn Wood & Rowan Carew; (JE) Jenny Edward; (KW) Kimberley Wilson; (BB) Bill Barker; (PM) Phil Malin; (RW) Robyn Wimbush (LH) Libby Hepburn (MC) Maggie Cursley; (AE) Angelika Erpic; (AM) Amanda Midlam; (N&F) Ned & Fleur; (LA) Liz Allen; (LC) Lynda Cowell; (MR) Michelle Richmond; (KLH) Kerri-Lee Harris; (PW) Paul Whittington; (A&L) Alan & Lyn Scrymgeour; (HW) Harrison Warne (H) Hannah.



Hydatina physis (LA)
(8 sightings)



Ceratosoma amoenum (PM)
(8 sightings)



Aplysia parvula (LA)
(6 sightings)



Hypselodoris obscura (BB)
(6 sightings)



Bullina lineata (LA)
(5 sightings)



Goniobranchus collingwoodi (MC)
(4 sightings)



Mariaglaja inornata (LH)
(3 sightings)



Stylocheilus striatus (RW)
(3 sightings)



Aplysia sydneyensis (LH)
(2 sightings)



Hypselodoris bennetti (BB)
(2 sightings)



Plocamopherus imperialis (PM)
(2 sightings)



Biuve fulvipunctata (LH)
(2 sightings)



Aphelodoris varia (PM)
(1 sighting)



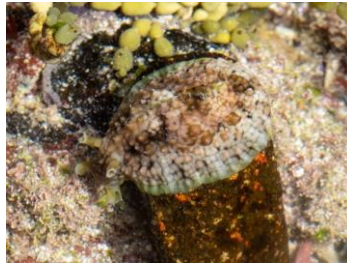
Aplysia juliana (LH)
(1 sighting)



Berthellina citrina (LH)
(1 sighting)



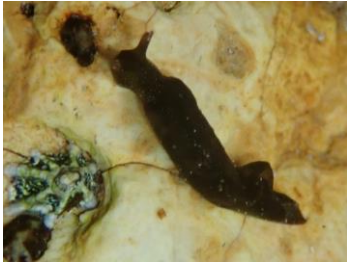
Bursatella leachii (LA)
(1 sighting)



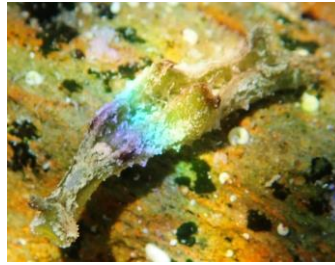
Dolabrifera brazieri (PW)
(1 sighting)



Elysia australis (LH)
(1 sighting)



Elysia maoria (LH)
(1 sighting)



Elysia tomentosa (LH)
(1 sighting)



Glaucus atlanticus (LA)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus albonares (LA)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus tinctorius (complex)
(LH) (1 sighting)



Haminoea cymbalum (LA)
(1 sighting)



Jorunna ramicola (LH)
(1 sighting)



Pleurobranchus peronii (PM)
(1 sighting)



Polycera hedgpethi (PM)
(1 sighting)



Spurilla braziliana (LA)
(2 sightings)



Dolabella auricularia (K&R)
(1 sighting)



Umbraculum umbraculum (PM)
(1 sighting)



Aplysia argus (K&R)
(1 sighting)



Chelidonura hirundinina (K&R)
(1 sighting)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to all for enthusiastic participation and to the organising team led by Libby.

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the 2019 event. 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.

Matt Nimbs (matthew.nimbs@scu.edu.au) &
Steve Smith (steve.smith@scu.edu.au)