



Southern California Association of  
Mostly Inveterate Twits

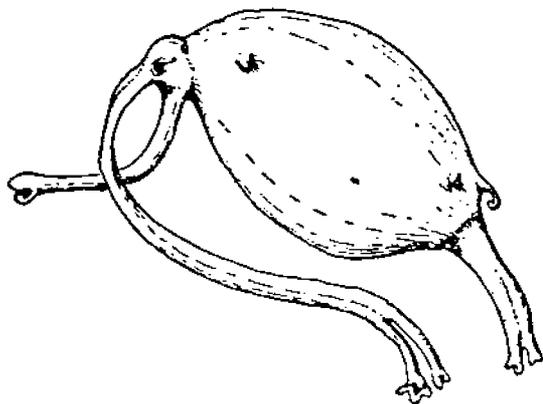
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SCAM IT Newsletter

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<b>NEXT MEETING:</b>	Rhinigrades
<b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b>	J. Durante
<b>DATE:</b>	31 June 1996
<b>TIME:</b>	9:30p.m.-3:00a.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Los Angeles County Arboretum



*Rhinotaenia tridacnae*(from Stümpke, Harald.  
1967. The Snouters. Natural History Press,  
Garden City. 92pp)

Our next meeting will deal with the obscure proboscidean group *Rhinogradentia* (snouters). As only a few of the members of the group are actually invertebrates, no complete treatment is contemplated. Dr. Durante is a respected authority on proboscides, and we are glad to welcome him back. None of us have had the joy of actually finding a snouter in one of our routine monitoring samples, but they have been reported regardless. If you have specimens, please bring them to the meeting. Any of the older and less accessible literature would also be useful. Don Cadien will, as usual, bring as much of the literature as he can carry. Since interest in this group is likely to extend beyond SCAM IT members alone, please invite anyone

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who expresses interest to the meeting. Visits by Dr. Durante are rare events.

campaign may force delegation of this public relations plum to a lower ranking representative.

### ELECTION RECOUNT

After a request by an irate Newsletter reader, the ballots of the recent election were actually opened and counted. The officers are embarrassed to correct the earlier report of their re-election, and to welcome the new slate of officers. Although a variety of write-in candidacies were put forward, the winners were Mas Dojiri, President; Dan Quayle, Vice-President; Fawn Hall, Secretary, and Charles Keating, Treasurer. Since some of those elected are not even members of the organization, their election is held in abeyance until they pay their dues, and/or are released on bail.

### A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT

The flesh-eating strain of *Staphylococcus* bacteria which has received press of late for attacking humans and providing extensive (if unwanted) weight loss has now been reported from the marine environment. Recently several of the tanks at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium have shown evidence of the presence of this pathogen, with fish on display virtually vanishing before the eyes of an astonished public. Chief Aquarist Jeff Landesman is at a loss as to how to purge them from the sea-water system without killing off the rest of the displays. However, since there is a long-standing policy of purges at the aquarium, one will be performed without delay. An alternative view of these losses is provided by an undisclosed source within the institution which maintains the aquarist himself is responsible for them.

A new display and touch-tank allowing the public to view and interact with these bacteria is planned for late 1996. Mayor Riordan is scheduled to give a hands on demonstration of the new exhibit, but pressures of his re-election

### NEW LITERATURE

The first complete census of any biological system has been completed and has just been published in *National Biosystems Review* (NBR Vol 31(3): 118-120). It covers the shallow-water marine environment of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Authors Rim Fay and Tom Hayden report the area a "biological desert" in which absolutely nothing lives. These findings are disputed by some, but have been warmly received by the inshore gill-net fisherman, who plan to use the report in court to demonstrate that their white croaker could not have come from the closed fishery area.

A second complete inventory is nearly done. It covers one square centimeter of the forest floor in the Chitarra Provincial Park in northern Costa Rica. After herculean efforts by the bacteriologists and virologists of the National Centers for Disease Control, the protist portion of the report nears completion. Printing and distribution of the anticipated 23,000 pages of inventory is expected to delay its availability.

The picture regarding *Capitella* has become more complicated. A series of genetic investigations on materials from around the world (Preebie and Sexsmith, 1996. Chromosome topology in a marine annelid species complex. *Journal of Disturbed Ecosystems* 4(11):74-131) has shown that there are another nine species of *Capitella* "capitata" which differ in their chromosome complement, size, and shape, but are morphologically identical. Pure colonies have been established through parthenogenetic breeding, and investigations to determine their behavioral and reproductive differences are now underway.

This month brings to light yet another of the ongoing series of cladistic reexaminations of the

interrelationships of deuterostome groups. Snead and Jocich (1996. Interrelationships of deuterostome groups: new results and invalidation of past efforts. *Journal of Communicable Results* 10(2):311-333) report their careful preparation has shown character states used in previous analyses cannot logically be used. They have been unable to generate additional character states which are valid bases for analysis and have declared, therefore, that the deuterostome groups are not related to each other.

**NEW LEGAL PRECEDENT**

An appeals court in Wisconsin has recently rendered a decision relating to the definition of "fair use" under the copyright law which has the potential of impacting any person who uses photo-reproduction of copyrighted material. Judge Emil Nightraid's decision states, in effect, that possession of copyright restricts usage of the material to the copyright holder; that these rights cannot be distributed or assigned, and that

consequently any material protected by copyright is unavailable to anyone other than the holder of the copyright. Further appeals are planned.

**MAD COW DISEASE**

Report all cases immediately: the importance of quick action cannot be overemphasized! Happy cows need not be reported. However attempts to use happy cows for food has been known to anger them. Do not report cases of angered happy cows as mad cow incidents. Penalties will be in place for false reporting, so please have the facts straight.

**MINUTES OF THE 1 APRIL MEETING**

None of the officers were able to make the meeting. Reports are that the two people who did attend got tired of waiting for the meeting to be called to order and wandered off. Anyone with information as to their whereabouts please contact the authorities.

**SCAM IT OFFICERS:**

If you need any other information concerning SCAM IT please feel free to contact any of the officers.

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Back issues of the newsletter are available. Prices are as follows:

- Volumes 1 - 4 (compilation).....\$ 300.00
- Volumes 5 - 7 (compilation).....\$ 150.00
- Volumes 8 - 13 .....\$ 200.00/vol.

Single back issues are also available, but you can't afford them.