



Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists

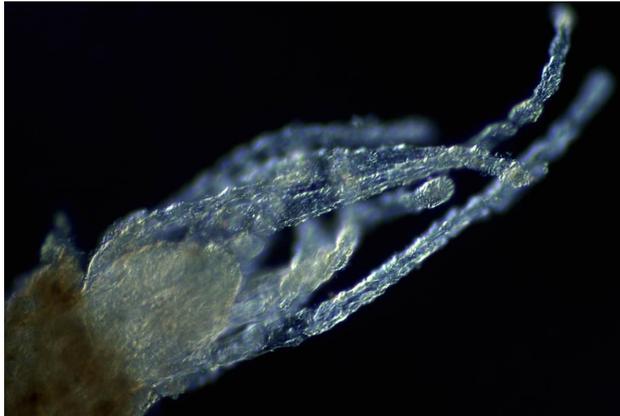
February, 2003

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 21, No. 10

SUBJECT:	Eulimidae
GUEST SPEAKER:	Discussion leader - Kelvin Barwick
DATE:	14 April 2003
TIME:	9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p. m.
LOCATION:	City of San Diego Marine Biology Lab 4918 N. Harbor Dr. suite 201

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES



"Perigonimus" sp
ID by J. Ljubenkov
Commensal on *Aphrodita armifera* Moore, 1910
CSD - B9(1), 10/3/02, 98 m
Image by K. Barwick 20DEC02

The February meeting began with president Kelvin Barwick thanking SCCWRP for hosting the meeting and providing the delicious bagels and other goodies. Upcoming meetings were then announced. The April meeting will be held on the 14th at the City of San Diego Marine Lab and will focus on Eulimids. May 12 will have Paul Scott hosting a pre-bight '03 meeting series, by reviewing the deeper water bivalves, at the SBMNH.

Kelvin then called for nominations for next year's officers. Megan Lilly nominated Kelvin Barwick for president and the motion was seconded. Shortly thereafter Kelvin nominated the current suite of officers and this motion was seconded as well.

Dave Montagne (CSDLAC) then had the floor. He reviewed the coastal ecology component of the Bight '03 project. It looks very similar to the B'98 study, with 11 strata being considered.

The major areas being investigated are open coast, which would include five depth ranges; 5-30m, 30-120m, 120-200m, 200-500m, and 500m-1000m. This last, deepest contour will only be sampled for chemical analyses, not biological. The other strata are, Islands, Harbors, large and small POTW's, and Estuaries. The Island component contains 30 sites, but at this point, does not include Catalina. The Harbor area has been divided into Marinas and Ports and other bay bottoms.

An interesting additional investigation this year will be analyzing tissue chemistry from forage fish, which includes, anchovies, sardines, and *Loligo opalescens* (obviously not a "fish", but being studied just the same). These animals will be sub-sampled from commercial catch and tested for toxins.

Cheryl Brantly, our fearless treasurer, then gave us an overview of SCAMIT's financial status and it looks good. She passed around a summary of our accounts and we are solvent and maybe even slightly ahead (some of this is due to our cost reduction in production of the newsletters, and from t-shirt and mug sales). Let's hope this trend continues as it will allow us to potentially provide more publishing grants or perhaps small student grants. Cheryl has also moved the financial accounts from Excel into Quicken. She asks that you give her advance notice if you are going to need a large sum of money as most of our funds are in a CD account and she doesn't keep much in the checking account.

Kelvin then brought up the idea of printing SCAMIT business cards that would have our web address and perhaps a mission statement. Many people ask about SCAMIT and these cards would be a quick, efficient method for giving them a way to tap into more information.

Since the real purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm and discuss future directions for SCAMIT there are no minutes, per say, to report. What follows is a summary of topics

that all those present thought were worth further investigation. Being taxonomists we immediately grouped into four broad categories. Then after some friendly persuasion and arm-twisting, small ad hoc committees of two or more people were formed to establish the feasibility of what was proposed. Each report should contain as many specifics as possible. How much will it cost? What kind of staff is required? How long would it take or will it be ongoing? What does SCAMIT, as an organization, have to do? Is it even possible? In short, what will it take to make the proposal(s) become a reality? Each ad hoc committee will bring their proposals forward in about six months to a second general meeting of the membership that will include the executive committee. Each ad hoc committee should come with a short written summary to be included in the newsletter minutes. (ed note - each topic and committee is listed below with the main points to be investigated and is then followed by the ideas which created these categories. – M. Lilly)

Funding for SCAMIT

Kelvin Barwick, Cheryl Brantley, and Christina Thomas: a) grants - NSF, Sloan, Peet, etc, b) B'03 committee funds, c) hire staff to achieve long term goals.

It was suggested that if we succeeded in getting a grant, some of this money could be funneled to students who are studying local fauna.

Taxonomy Database

(Much of what follows builds on an ongoing effort by member Rick Rowe (CSD) who has been investigating and evaluating taxonomic database software for SCAMIT (see Vol 20 no. 4) as well as the CSD laboratory.) Rick Rowe and Shelly Walther: a) incorporating the species list into a database system, b) include NAMIT's species list (potentially), c) add ecology, descriptive taxonomic data, and the index to the species list, d) add list-server information to the database and the newsletter, e) look into creating unified data formats.



We need to build an online taxonomic database with the SCAMIT species list. This could include taxonomy, species characteristics, distributional maps and/or ranges and diagnostic images of the selected species. Also we should develop an online illustrated key for identification of selected invertebrate groups. The necessity of eventually getting much of our information into Delta or Biolink was raised. At this point the idea of hiring a consultant to do this work was discussed, since it is a full time job in of itself. It was thought that perhaps SCAMIT could apply for either a NSF or a SLOAN grant to help cover this cost. It was pointed out that actually a student would probably need to apply for the grant, using the SCAMIT databasing issue as their project.

An additional item that needs to be investigated is having SCAMIT decide on the best format for reporting data. For example, the regional format that is used at HYP is different than what MEC uses. It is difficult to compare two data sets in different formats using electronic means.

Recruitment/Training

Lisa Haney and Ron Velarde: a) outreach at all levels of education, b) teacher workshops, c) scholarships, science fair awards, etc., d) support research and training at the graduate level, e) attend and sponsor taxonomic seminars, f) conduct workshops on the science of taxonomy, g) encourage research on local fauna.

There was a general consensus among members present and those who sent in emails that there is a real need for training new people to be our next generation of taxonomists. There is a drastic decline in the number of people willing and able to do the science of taxonomy and in funding for those who do. As well, we need to try to develop a plan to entice more undergraduates and graduates into marine invertebrate taxonomy. Outreach programs that would work with public schools were also mentioned. Not just at the college level but

elementary through high school students as well. The idea being to at least give students a general idea of what taxonomy is, and how it can be an employable skill (perhaps leave the more sophisticated info and employment details for high school level). SCAMIT could also host and fund taxonomy workshops for public school teachers so that they can return the message and information to their classrooms. There was also the idea of small scholarships for graduating high school students. A survey of local schools to find out which ones currently have taxonomy programs would help assess the current situation.

Advocacy

Megan Lilly and Lisa Haney: a) taxonomic certification (Rick Rowe and Tony Phillips), b) poster and prepared speech to promote the SCAMIT model, c) general promotion, d) professional development, e) publishing our own journal (Shelly Walther).

The overall concept of advocacy was revisited. It was broken down into the following components: 1 - validation, 2 – attending conferences, 3 - taxonomic certification, 4 – creating a poster to promote taxonomy and SCAMIT, 5 - support for NAMIT, 6 - SCAMIT publishing its own journal. It was suggested that SCAMIT could hold seminar series, with topics being such subjects as, “Opportunities in Taxonomy” and “Applied Science aspects of Taxonomy”. For professional development we thought about having workshops on preparing publications. We were reminded by a member of SCCWRP that SCAMIT sets a regional standard for taxonomy and that we need to market ourselves more as the basic underpinning for these large scale investigative projects, such as the Bight and EMAP projects.

Newsletter Modifications

This will be addressed by the Executive Committee. Some subjects to be investigated are: More frequent updates of the index. Having the newsletter consist, if necessary, of just meeting minutes and future meeting



announcements, etc, and then having quarterly contributions of things such as, literature reviews, general taxonomy discussions, etc. There will also be deadlines established for contributions to assist with getting the newsletter out in a more timely fashion (obviously anything of interest submitted prior to the deadline will be included). It was also discussed that we have some minor presentation guidelines, requiring that a speaker at a meeting, at the minimum, give the secretary an outline or notes on the presentation to assist her with the minutes. The issue of one column versus two column format was raised, with most of the electronic members present requesting a one column format. This will also be further investigated by the committee.

It was suggested that the newsletter have a section that reports on list server activities. This will commence its trial run in next month's newsletter.

Other general notes

It was requested that SCAMIT establish guidelines or a template for voucher sheet formats and post them on the website. This would help standardize the way information is presented for provisional species.

The problem of in-house provisional species versus SCAMIT provisional species needs to be addressed. Dave Montagne (CSDLAC) offered to print a list of the provisional species now in the Species List and it will be sent to Kelvin. There will be a coordinated effort to SCAMIT'ize in-house provisional species from the various agencies.

In summation, Tom Parker agreed to review the present SCAMIT constitution and by-laws to bring them up to date. The changes would then be voted on by the membership.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Here ye, Here ye, Here ye, we are officially calling for nominations for SCAMIT officers. If you have someone you'd like to nominate other than those people mentioned in the above

minutes, please contact any of the officers and tell them of your nominee, or there is always a "write in" space on the ballot. Candidate statements and ballots will be included in the next newsletter (March). Please be sure to vote this year.

PYCNOGONIDA REQUEST

"Dear All,
We are currently working on the first 'big' attempt to propose a molecular phylogeny of the Pycnogonida or commonly called sea spiders. These are fascinating, bizarre small arthropods, usually cryptic and not abundant. However, they inhabit all marine habitats around the world and this is why I am kindly asking for your collaboration.
In case you find pycnogonids in your samples, e.g. trawlings, dredging, associated to molluscs, echinoderms, washings of algae or intertidal samples, etc, I would enormously appreciate you could keep and preserve any specimen in 90% Ethanol and refrigerated. These creatures are difficult to find and not very well-known so collaboration from marine invertebrate specialists or basically anyone going out to the sea is very much appreciated. I can run with shipping charges and any other costs.
I hope to hear from any of you soon, any relevant information or assistance would be greatly appreciated and any collaboration would be acknowledged as it corresponds. Please excuse the liberty I've taken sending this email through the E-lists.
My best wishes to all,
Claudia P. Arango
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Central Park West @ 79th St.
New York, NY 10024-5192 USA
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1-212-769-5277 (Fax)
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Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: <http://www.scamit.org>

SCAMIT OFFICERS:

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers at their e-mail addresses:

President	Kelvin Barwick (619)758-2337	kbarwick@sandiego.gov
Vice-President	Leslie Harris (213)763-3234	lharris@nhm.org
Secretary	Megan Lilly (619)758-2336	mlilly@sandiego.gov
Treasurer	Cheryl Brantley (310)830-2400x5500	cbrantley@lacsds.org

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

Volumes 1 - 4 (compilation).....	\$ 30.00
Volumes 5 - 7 (compilation).....	\$ 15.00
Volumes 8 - 15	\$ 20.00/vol.

Single back issues are also available at cost.

The SCAMIT newsletter is published monthly and is distributed freely through the web site at www.scamit.org. Membership is \$15 for the electronic copy available via the web site and \$30 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$60. All new members receive a printed copy of the most current edition of "A Taxonomic Listing of Soft Bottom Macro- and Megainvertebrates ... in the Southern California Bight." The current edition, the fourth, contains 2,067 species with partial synonyms. All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

SCAMIT

C/O The Natural History Museum, Invertebrate Zoology

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