



## Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists

July, 2003

### SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 22, No. 3

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>B'03 Polychaetes Continued</b>
<b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>27 October 2003</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p. m.</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History 900 Exposition Blvd.</b>



*Ombellula magniflora* Kölliker 1880

#### JULY MINUTES

The meeting began a few hours late due to the unfortunate coincidence of there being a hazardous materials spill that morning on the road leading to Dancing Coyote Ranch. Everybody had finally gathered by a little after 11:00 a.m. and we instantly dove into the business of Cnidaria.

We started by looking at pictures and specimens of *Stephanauge annularis*. A small, pinkish anemone often found in the basins at 400- 500m depths. It is usually seen wrapped around trash, sea pens, or any other hard substrate. It uses its incredibly flexible pedal disk to anchor itself by wrapping its edges, often times completely around, the object. It is characterized by large white bumps at the top of the column which John informed us is characteristic of the family Hormathiidae to which this species belongs.

John then showed us a big, lumpy, bumpy, white anemone (for lack of a better description) known as *Actinostola* sp. It was barrel shaped and had many tentacles with the largest in the center and getting smaller as you traveled distally. They were reddish or purple in life and looked dark in preservation. It was found in 450m of water. John warned us that the drawing in the Cnidaria volume of the MMS Atlas, wasn't quite accurate and not to rely on it for identifying this species.

Next we viewed photos of *Ombellula magniflora*. A beautiful sea pen being found relatively frequently in the deep intercalibration trawls. A specimen was also available for examination. It is reminiscent of a large flower, with a bare stalk and a large, flower-like apex where the polyps are clustered (cover photo).

*Halipteris californicus* was viewed next. It is a large sea pen with many polyps covering the rachis. In life the polyps are purplish and the peduncle has a distinctive yellowish tinge. The large and impressive ophiuroid, *Asteronyx longifissus* is often seen wrapped around its tip. There are good images of this animal in the the MMS Atlas. It was at this point that John reminded us that the Cnidaria volume is a great reference source for deeper water sea pens.

The impressive pen, *Pennatula californica* was examined. We were informed that it is common in deeper water. The reddish color comes from the spicules and therefore doesn't fade quickly upon preservation. The polyps are individual attachments to the rachis instead of being organized into leaves. Refer to the MMS Atlas Cnidaria volume for more information and images.

Another species of sea pen which has individually inserted polyps, versus having them organized in leaves, is *Anthoptilum grandiflorum*. It has a distinctive swelling at the base which is also well-represented in the Atlas drawings.

The last of the sea pens was a nice, large specimen of *Ptilosarcus gurneyi*. It is found from 3m (in its northern range) to 135m.

A bizarre benthic siphonophore, *Dromalia alexandri*, was viewed next. It is in the family Rhodaliidae. Tony Phillips (CLAEMD) had brought some nice digital photos of it live and there was a specimen present for viewing. John explained that the animal has long "tendrils" which are specifically designed for anchoring it in the sand and it then hovers just above the bottom catching small food items.

We next looked at corals that might be encountered. The first was *Desmophyllum dianthus*. The primary septa are extremely long and distinctive. It is obviously associated with hard bottom substrates. When alive it is orange in color and often looks like an anemone since the septa are obscured by living tissue.

Two good references for many of the corals in our area are Bythell 1986 and Cairns 1994.

An interesting looking coral that was passed around for viewing was *Lophelia pertusa*. It is often associated with rocky or hard substrate over-hangs.

Also seen is *Coenocyanthus bowersi* which has a distinctive branching pattern. It is found from 20-250m and is pinkish in life.

Next we viewed a specimen of *Paracyathus stearnsii*, which was small and brownish with a thick base. It was similar to *Desmophyllum* but the primary septa were not nearly as large. See Bythell 1986, for comparative photos.

We also saw a specimen of *Balanophyllia elegans* which John informed us would be yellow/orange in life.

A strange looking octocoral, *Telesto californica* will be found mixed in with our more common *Thesea*. For nice drawings of *Telesto* see the Cnidaria volume of the MMS Atlas.



We took a quick break from Cnidaria to look at a few deep water mollusks that John had come across in some of his consulting work. He showed us a gastropod that was vaguely reminiscent of a *Calliostoma* but was obviously not. It turned out to be *Cidarina cidaris* which can be seen in the Mollusk volume of the MMS Atlas on page 31.

Then returning to Cnidaria we started looking at Gorgonians. *Swiftia* was the first to be examined. One of its distinctive features was that the polyps were oppositely arranged. It is red in life and lives on the upper slope.

We then got into a discussion regarding the term “oppositely arranged” with regards to polyps. Upon examination of the *Swiftia* specimen many members thought they saw polyps which were arranged alternately, in other words, not directly across from one another on the rachis, but rather, slightly staggered in their insertion. John agreed that was the case, but he pointed us to the tips of the branches and there we saw instances of the polyps being oppositely arranged, i.e., directly across from one another on the rachis. John’s explanation was that in species described as having opposite arrangement, there will be both alternate and opposite arrangement of polyps, with the opposite pattern most common near the tips of the branches. Whereas, in a species defined as having alternate arrangement, you will never see any opposite arrangement of the polyps.

The mysterious and rare *Thesea* sp A was briefly discussed. It has only been seen by John and Don Cadien (LACSD), and then, only once. It is similar to *Thesea* sp B except that it is very, large, (“as thick as a pencil”) according to Don, and is white in color with heavy spicules.

Another prostrate Gorgonian is *Heterogorgia tortuosa*. It is relatively distinctive looking in that it has polyps which appear bilabiate and have slit-like openings at the mouth. This is in comparison to *Thesea*, which has 8-way

spicules in a chevron pattern surrounding a round opening at the mouth of the polyp. Another distinctive feature of *Heterogorgia* is the polyps are arranged in two rows opposite from one another on the stem and it is whitish in life. *Thesea* has the polyps arranged randomly around the stem and is usually a dirty yellow or grey.

Although our day was short, it was extremely productive and, I, for one, left with much greater confidence in regards to identifying many of the deeper water Cnidaria that we may encounter.

I have included in the bibliography a listing of Cnidaria literature that John sent and which is originally found in Straughan and Klink 1980. John cautioned that the list is older; he is working on updates and will eventually compile a new version.

#### REVISED SCAMIT CONSTITUTION

At the end of the newsletter there is a revised copy of SCAMIT’s constitution. A vote of the membership is necessary in order for the changes to be ratified. The last page contains the official ballot, which must be returned by 31 December 2003. Please take a moment to review the changes and cast your vote. We would like to extend a special thanks to Tom Parker (CSDLAC) for bringing it to the officers’ attention that the constitution was in need of updating and for making the initial revisions.



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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:

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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](http://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

attn: Leslie Harris

900 Exposition Boulevard

Los Angeles, California, 90007

BALLOT FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCAMIT CONSTITUTION.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF  
MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS (SCAMIT) CONSTITUTION

Preamble

In view of the diversity of marine invertebrates in the Southern California area and the many organizations studying the ecology of these organisms, the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists was organized by scientists who recognized the need to standardize systematic practices and taxonomic usage through a program of inter-calibration. On April 21, 1982, the Association was founded and a Constitutional Committee was formed to establish a working framework. This Constitution is the result of the Committee's activities.

Article 1: Name

The organization shall be the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists (SCAMIT).

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to develop standard procedures in systematic practices and taxonomic usage for marine invertebrates in the Southern California region. This will be accomplished primarily through an inter-calibration program and the exchange of information among persons interested in marine invertebrate taxonomy. This will include specimen exchange and confirmation, literature exchange, **the periodic publication and distribution of standardized taxonomic listings, support for taxonomic quality control efforts, and financial support of taxonomic publication** ~~the development of an inter-calibrated reference collection housed at a designated institution, and~~ guest lecturers. **SCAMIT will also own and operate an Internet website to further these purposes.**

Article 3: Membership

Section 1: Membership

Membership in the Association is open to individuals or institutions interested in the systematics and ecology of marine invertebrates. Membership can be obtained upon written application to the Treasurer with an accompanying payment of dues.

Section 2: Types of Members

Only Charter, Individual, Institutional, and Honorary members are recognized.

Section 3: Rights of Membership

Honorary life members and all other members whose dues have been paid for the current year shall be considered members in good standing and shall be entitled to receive notices of the Association's activities, vote at meetings or by mail, and participate in any activities sponsored by the Association.

Article 4: Dues

**Shaded text** denotes proposed additions.  
~~Strikethrough text~~ denotes proposed deletions.

BALLOT FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCAMIT CONSTITUTION.

Dues shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) annually ~~with electronic format newsletter, thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year with mailed paper newsletter format, and sixty dollars (\$60.00) per year for institutional members.~~ Dues are collected during the month of May for all members. ~~for individual members and sixty dollars (\$60.00) annually for institutional members.~~

Article 5: Officers

Section 1: Officers

The elected officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: Term of Officers

All ~~elected~~ officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members voting in the election. Officers may hold the same office for an unlimited number of terms. Newly elected officers shall assume the responsibilities of their office in April and continue through March of the following year.

Section 3: Election of Officers

Request for nominations will be entertained in the December newsletter and at the January meeting. Election shall be by means of a ~~mail~~ ballot sent ~~out in the February newsletter, in the January newsletter.~~ Ballots shall be sent to members in good standing. Results of the election will be announced in the ~~March~~ newsletter.

Article 6: Meetings

The Association shall normally meet on the second Monday of every month. The President may change the date, venue, or content of a scheduled meeting if conditions arise to warrant such changes.

Article 7: Limitations

The purpose of the Association is listed in Article 2 of the Constitution. Lobbying, or any activities specifically designed to influence legislation, support political groups, or advance popular, political, scientific, or religious causes are not among the objectives of the Association and neither the Association nor any official group within the Association, ~~or officer identifying themselves as such,~~ shall engage in such activity.

Article 8: General Prohibitions

Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution or Bylaws which might be susceptible to a contrary construction:

- a) The Association shall be organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;
- b) The Association shall not participate in, or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office (including the publishing or distributing of statements);

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- c) The Association shall not be organized or operated for profit;
- d) The property of this Association is irrevocably dedicated to scientific and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this Association shall ever inure to the benefit of any officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the Association, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- e) At no time shall the Association use its funds to hire Employees or acquire any real property. In the event the Association pays for professional or labor services to further its educational and scientific purpose, it shall be done on a contract or fee-for-service basis.

Article 9: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at any meeting of the Association or in a mail ballot. In either case, notice of the proposed action will be sent to each voting member of the Association by the Secretary. ~~at least sixty (60) days before the date of the vote.~~

Article 10: Bylaws

The Association may enact Bylaws for interpretation and implementation of the Constitution. Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at any meeting of the Association or in a mail ballot. In either case, notice of the proposed action shall be sent to each voting member of the Association by the Secretary. ~~at least sixty (60) days before the date of the vote.~~

Article 11: Division

At the discretion of the officers, the Association may establish ad hoc committees to carry out activities under the overall sponsorship of the Association.

Article 12: Ownership

The acronym "SCAMIT", the Internet site listed as "<http://www.scamit.org>", the original art SCAMIT logos, and all other original items produced by the Association are copyrighted and protected by the Association under current copyright law. Items donated to the Association become its property and may be used or disposed of in accordance with the Association's purposes and goals.

BYLAWS

Bylaw 1: Types of Membership

The following types of members are recognized:

- a) Charter - members who joined the Association between April 1982 and March 31, 1983.

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- b) Individual - Members who wish to be a part of the association and its activities.
- c) Institutional - Organizations or groups who wish to be a part of the association and its activities.
- d) Honorary Life - Membership awarded at the discretion of the executive committee in recognition of service to the association.

Bylaw 2: Duties of Officers

- a) **President** - The president or designate shall preside at meetings of the Association, represent the Association's interest in external business affairs, ~~present a written yearly summary of the Association's activities to the membership,~~ The President's name will be listed on the financial accounts. The President will have possession of the Association Constitution, and perform such other functions as may be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- b) **Vice-President** - The Vice-President shall chair ad hoc committees, be responsible for tabulating and disseminating results of elections, votes on Bylaws, and Amendments to the Constitution; ~~coordinate specimen exchange;~~ arrange meetings and workshops; ~~coordinate the preparation of voucher sheets, edit voucher sheets and newsletters;~~ and perform duties of the President during any period(s) when the President is unable to fulfill his or her duties as President of the Association.
- c) **Secretary** - The Secretary or designate shall keep minutes for all meetings, produce the newsletter, issue notices for meetings, conduct the correspondence of the Association, and be responsible for ballot preparation. The Secretary will also keep a copy of the membership list.
- d) **Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall collect dues, make necessary disbursements, keep the accounts of the association and monitor compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The Treasurer will present an annual summary of financial accounts in the newsletter. The Treasurer will inform the other officers of the current location of the Association's financial records. These accounts will be available for inspection by any elected officer upon request. All monetary funds of the Association are to be kept in FDIC insured accounts listing the Association name on the account title. The Treasurer's name will be listed on the financial accounts. The Treasurer will also maintain the current list of members in good standing and transmit a copy to the Secretary when the annual summary of accounts is produced.

Bylaw 3: Committees

- a) An executive committee shall be formed, composed of each ~~elected~~ officer and will meet at least

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once per year to discuss the Association's activities. This Committee is authorized to expend SCAMIT funds to further the association's goals. Special projects or activities requiring the expenditure of SCAMIT funds are approved by a majority vote of the Committee. All such special projects will be announced in the newsletter and posted on the SCAMIT Internet web site. The Executive Committee is authorized to engage in fund raising to support the Association's goals and purposes through the sale of SCAMIT identified items. The Committee may also direct the Association to apply for grants or contracts that will support SCAMIT's purposes listed in Article 2, and a single member from each committee and the liaison for the hosting organization. The function is to advise the officers on fund raising, expenditures of funds, and to insure the association's purpose is furthered. This executive committee will meet once each year with additional meetings scheduled as necessary by the president.

- b) The officers shall create ad hoc committees of volunteer members as needed to further the purpose of the association.



## OFFICIAL MAIL IN BALLOT

I have read and understand the proposed changes to the SCAMIT constitution and bylaws. As a member in good standing I  
**APPROVE / DISAPPROVE** all said changes.  
(circle one)

Detach and mail completed ballot to:

Leslie Harris, Vice-President  
The Natural History Museum, Invertebrate Zoology  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California, 90007