

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
MARINE
INVERTEBRATE
TAXONOMISTS



January–February 2021

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 39 No. 5



Muricopsis (Muricopsis) mcleani Wiedrick, 2009 specimen (10.8 mm)
Intertidal of Juncalito, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Wiedrick, 2010: 92, fig. 1).

This Issue

11 JANUARY 2021, NEW CALEDONIA MOLLUSKS, SHAWN WIEDRICK, ZOOM	2
8 FEBRUARY 2021, PROVISIONAL SPECIES WEBSITE, CODY LARSEN, ZOOM	3
LITERATURE CITED	5
SCAMIT OFFICERS	6

The SCAMIT newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes

Publication Date: March 2022

11 JANUARY 2021, NEW CALEDONIA MOLLUSKS, SHAWN WIEDRICK, ZOOM

Attendance: Shawn Wiedrick; Heather Peterson, SFPUC; Jovairia Loan, Joanne Linnenbrink, Chase McDonald, Terra Petry, Don Cadien, LACSD; Tony Phillips, DCE; Kelvin Barwick, OCSD; Greg Lyon, Erin Oderlin, Craig Campbell, CLAEMD; Tom Biksey, retired; Wendy Enright, Megan Lilly, CSD; Austin Hendy, NHMLAC; Peter Bryant, UCI.

Kelvin opened the day with upcoming meeting announcements.

Officer news: Brent has declined the nomination for Secretary, and has accepted the nomination for President; Megan was then nominated for Secretary and she accepted.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Visit the SCAMIT website at: www.scamit.org for the most current meetings announcements.

Kelvin introduced Shawn Wiedrick who was the guest speaker for the day. Shawn told us a bit about his background, growing up as an amateur shell collector in Southern California. He honed his collecting skills whenever visiting his grandmother who lived on Naples Island. His father was a philatelist and had an appreciation for collections so he helped Shawn build a cabinet for his shell collection. Shawn purchased his first book on shells at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and learned about the systematic Orders of shells. He was also interested in art and graduated with an art education degree from Cal State Long Beach. While in college he took a beach walk and found an interesting shell. Curious, he referred to Tucker Abbott's book (Abbott 1974) and realized it was actually a *Sinum*. This experience rekindled his interest in shells and on his next visit to his parents' house, he pulled his old shell collection from the attic. He had just purchased a new computer and started to catalogue his collection. On another occasion at Del Mar Beach he discovered some uncommon deeper water species that were present due to the beach restoration program. By now he was hooked on malacology and started expanding his collecting trips to other states and collected at beaches on all the U.S. coasts. He joined the Pacific Conchological Club and started attending shell auctions. During this time he met and developed a good relationship with Dr. Jim McLean. Jim encouraged Shawn to write his first paper describing a new species from Mexico, *Muricopsis (Muricopsis) mcleani* Wiedrick, 2009. After publication of his paper, he started to focus on micro turrids. He would meet with Jim once a week after work and would stay in the collections until 10 pm. Since Jim's passing, Lindsey Groves and Austin Hendy have become new mentors/helpers. Shawn met Dr. Doug Eernisse at a SCUM meeting and Doug helped him get into Cal State Fullerton to pursue his Masters. His thesis focused on *Ocinebrina*. During his time at Fullerton Doug invited him to attend a two-week chiton workshop at the Paris Museum. While there, he met Dr. Philippe Bouchet who would later invite him to spend a month working in New Caledonia. Shawn went on to explain the history of the Paris Museum's recent expeditions, an overview of New Caledonia and the three major legs of research on the northern portion of the island (Koumac 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3). A showcase of the research operations for 2.3 were presented along with collection techniques employed while diving. Shawn presented an array of images from the inner reef, middle reef and the outer reef stations of the Koumac reef system which included mostly invertebrate and coral reef photographs. Also highlighted was a quest for local *Gourmya* that entailed journeys to both sides of the island and retrieval of tangle nets aboard the R/V Alis. Shawn concluded by presenting some statistics of the trip which included 373 collection events, outreach involving 562 students/visitors, ARMS research data with records of approximately 3,000 species collected, and over 30,000 photos catalogued.



8 FEBRUARY 2021, PROVISIONAL SPECIES WEBSITE, CODY LARSEN, ZOOM

Attendance: Cody Larsen, Greg Lyon, Jennifer Smolenski, Erin Oderlin, CLAEMD; Leslie Harris, NHMLAC; Dean Pasko, Larry Lovell, DCE; Kelvin Barwick, Bryce Perog, Ben Ferraro, Ernie Ruckman, Danny Tang, OCSD; Megan Lilly, Adam Webb, Maiko Kasuya, Zoë Scott, Wendy Enright, Andy Davenport, Veronica Rodriguez, Ricardo Martinez, CSD; Diane O’Donohue, Ashley Loveland, SFPUC; Tom Biksey, retired.

Kelvin opened with upcoming meetings announcements.

Leslie then gave an election update and notified attendees that the ballots had been sent out that morning.

Kelvin briefly commented that the SLRC had missed the Ed 13 publication goal of January 1 2021, but hoped to have a revised deadline soon. He noted with a bit of nostalgia that this is his second to last meeting as President since the new officer regime starts in April.

Cody then had the floor to go over his latest developments on the Provisional Species website.

<https://scamitdatabase.wixsite.com/scamitprovisionals>

His plan for the meeting was for attendees to go through the User’s Guide on the website as a group and address any questions.

In order to upload a provisional species sheet, the user needs to fill out the Google form on the front page. Users will need a gmail or google account in order to upload or edit sheets. However, a google account is not needed for simply viewing sheets. As he demonstrated the look-up list for the various SCB agencies, there were suggestions to add an “unaffiliated” or “independent” option since some contractors won’t be represented by the current list of options. Diane suggested that instead of the agency someone works for, have it be the agency who collected the specimen, so in other words, the organization that has the voucher specimen. If anyone has other thoughts for the site email Cody (cody.larsen@lacity.org) with requests or suggestions. He noted that once a file has been uploaded it cannot be deleted by the author if they decide it was in error, rather they would need to email Cody or one of the other site editors (a list of editors is still being compiled) and ask to have it removed. The second upload option is there for the purpose of uploading a provisional species after feedback and edits have been incorporated and it represents the final version.

After submitting a voucher sheet the author will receive a confirmation email. It can take up to 5 minutes for the site to refresh and send out the notification.

Users can add comments directly to a pdf sheet using the comments tool, but additionally there is the option to comment on any field in the database. However, Cody is assuming the majority of comments will be directed at the voucher sheets themselves. The author will receive an email every time a comment is posted. While you can technically make a comment without logging in, your comment will be anonymous which doesn’t help the author, so it is strongly recommended that you log in to a google account prior to commenting. If the author responds to a user’s comments then that user will receive an email notification.



Once a sheet receives final edits and is approved and given a SCAMIT designation, the next step is for the Secretary to publish it in a newsletter. It will be the Secretary's responsibility to enter the form and check the required fields to track the process.

Lastly, it will be sent to the Webmaster for uploading to the Toolbox. Once the entire process is complete and the sheet has been published and uploaded to the Toolbox it will be hidden in the Provisional Species website. It will not be removed but rather moved under the "submitted to the Toolbox" tab.

That wrapped up Cody's overview of the site but started a discussion of the various features and processes.

Kelvin is concerned nothing will be accomplished if the review process is left open with no assignment or deadlines. We revisited the suggestion that SCAMIT meetings have a standing agenda item to review at least one sheet (or more if time allows) after the business meeting but prior to the main topic.

Cody noted that everyone has commenting access to the User's Guide and encouraged people to review it and add their thoughts.

Cody offered to send out a monthly reminder email to SCAMIT members, mentioning how many voucher sheets have been uploaded to the site in the previous month, and asking members to "please go review". Leslie suggested rather we send out an email a month prior to the meeting on a given taxa and remind those planning to attend to review uploaded pertinent taxa sheets. It will be up to the meeting lead to choose which and how many sheets will be addressed. Cody suggested we fumble through one at the next meeting. Since the next meeting is mollusks Kelvin asked Greg Lyon if he'd be willing to run his *Propebela* vouchers sheets through the system? Greg, while not joyful, did consent.

A question regarding who will suggest the SCAMIT letter designation was resolved with the decision that the initial onus will fall on the author who will need to look at the current Species List, as well as the Provisional Species website (for those animals that have been submitted, approved, and published in a NL and to the Toolbox, but are awaiting the publication of the next Edition of the List), to see what letter is next with regards to availability. The author can add this suggested SCAMIT name in parentheses on their sheet and the editors will double check its availability and say "yay or nay".

There are "orphan" species on the List that have no documentation and perhaps never will. Dean Pasko urged that we restart the process of going through the List and dealing with those orphan species and removing them to a permanent "on hold" List. We had been making good progress prior to the pandemic but for the last year, efforts have ground to a halt. It was agreed by attendees that these efforts need to resume.

The next discussion to ensue was the fact that many of us make ID sheets with photos and text but they don't meet the requirements for a formal SCAMIT voucher sheet. Therefore, these sheets often never get distributed and rather sit in limbo in people's personal folders and files. It was decided that these sheets should be uploaded to the Provisional Species website and while they may never have enough information added to make them sufficient for the species to be scamitized, at least the information will be available to members for review and edification. The hope is this could lead to collaboration and ultimately the production of more SCAMIT voucher sheets.



The meeting closed with this summary – Cody has done an amazing job and put in a lot of work to create this very useful resource for SCAMIT members. The SCAMIT Provisional Species website will be a place to formalize the process of SCAMITizing provisional species but will also act as a repository for in-house provisional species sheets and informal ID sheets. This second feature is being done in the hopes of facilitating more frequent and consistent sharing of information.

LITERATURE CITED

- Abbott, Tucker R. 1974. American Seashells; The Marine Molluska of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of North America. 663 pp.
- Wiedrick, S. G. (2009). Description of a new *Muricopsis* species (Gastropoda: Muricidae: Muricopsinae) from the Panamic Province. *Novapex* 10(2): 47-52, figs. 1-17.
- Wiedrick, S.G. (2010). Additional records of the newly described *Muricopsis mcleani* from the Golfo de California. *The Festivus* 42(8): 92, fig. 1.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: 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	Brent Haggin	(562)908-4288 x 5672	bhaggin@lacsds.org
Vice-President	Leslie Harris	(213)763-3234	lharris@nhm.org
Secretary	Megan Lilly	(619)758-2336	mlilly@sandiego.gov
Treasurer	Erin Oderlin	(310)648-5477	erin.oderlin@lacity.org

SCAMIT is a 501(c)(3) charity. The newsletter is published every two months and is distributed freely to members in good standing. Membership is \$20 for an electronic copy of the newsletter, available via the web site at www.scamit.org, and \$35 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$65. All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

SCAMIT
PO Box 50162
Long Beach, CA 90815