

SCAMIT CODE: None

Date Examined: January 1993

Voucher By: Don Cadien

SYNONYMY: *Meloscaphander sp A* MBC 1982
Meloscaphander sp A SCAMIT 1993

LITERATURE: **Bouchet, Philippe. 1975.** Opisthobranches de profondeur de l'Océan Atlantique. I - Cephalaspidea. Cahiers de Biologie Marine 16: 317-365.
Schepman, M. M. 1913. The Prosobranchia of the Siboga-Expedition, VI Pulmonata, and Opisthobranchia [I]: Tectibranchiata, tribe Bullomorpha. Siboga Expedition 66: 453-494

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. animal completely retractile within shell; animal translucent white, no pigment patterns
2. anterior foot margin bilabiate, lateral projections short; oral tentacles short, inflated auriform; mouth small; tentacles elongate, deeply bifid
3. parapodia broader posteriorly, and partially separated from foot by posterior notches; tail narrow, elongate
4. shell up to 8mm in length, thin, glassily transparent, globose, unsculptured
5. spire involute, but not deeply sunken, with a minute pore; outer lip rounded anteriorly, carrying the curvature of the body whorl through the aperture; outer lip not flared posteriorly, blending evenly into the shoulder of the preceding whorl
6. columella nearly vertical, without plications; little or no callus on body whorl; small reflexed anterior lip of columellar callus forming minute umbilicus

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES: relationship of this taxon are not established, but the following "bulloid" forms could be confused with it:

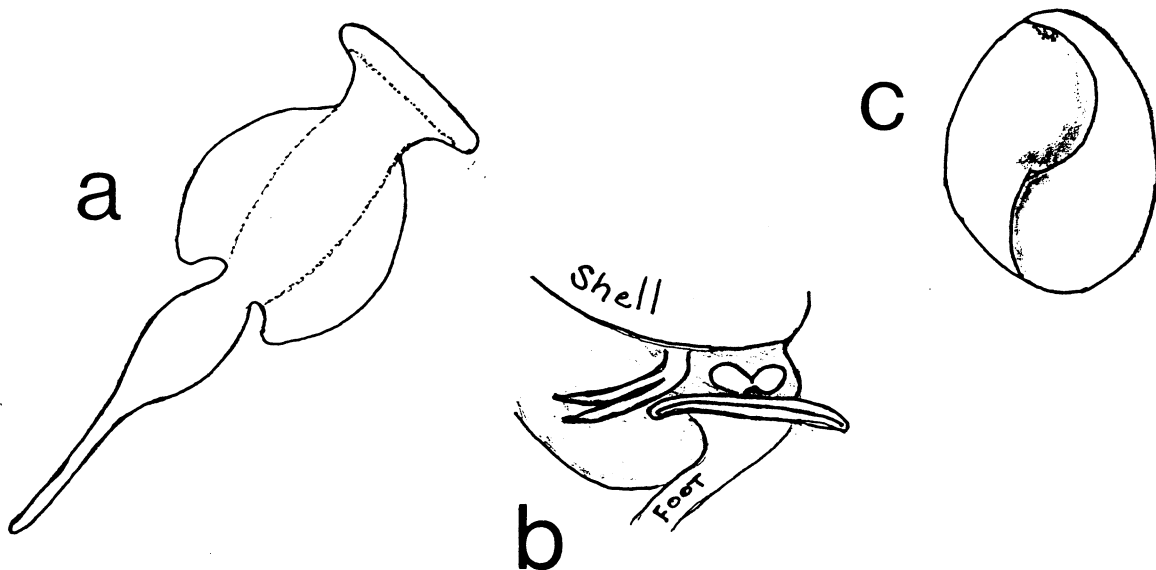
1. Differs from small *Bulla gouldiana* in having unpigmented shells; and in being globose instead of barrel-like
2. Differs from juvenile *Haminea vesicula* in being more globose, with the sides of the whorls convex rather than nearly straight; and in lacking brown and black mantle pigmentation
3. Differs from juvenile *Haminea virescens* in lacking both shell and mantle pigmentation; and in having the posterior margin of the outer lip grade smoothly into the shoulder of the preceding whorl instead of flaring outward

4. Differs from *Diaphana californica* in lacking a prominent globose nuclear whorl, in having a broadly open aperture, in having a globose rather than barrel-like shell, and in having a minute rather than prominent umbilicus
5. Differs from *Parvaplustrum sp A* in being globose, not pyriform; and in lacking a spoutlike posterior carina circling an involute spire
6. Differs from *Bullomorpha sp A* in being globose rather than barrel-like, in having only a minute spire perforation rather than a sunken pit; and in having a thin transparent shell rather than a thicker opaque white shell (small thinner *Bullomorpha sp A* show a black mantle ocellus lacking in *Meloscaphander sp A*)
7. Differs from *Woodbridgea polystrigma* in lacking spiral lines of punctae on the shell, and in being more globose

DEPTH RANGE: 30 - 605m

DISTRIBUTION: San Diego to Goleta

COMMENTS: Generic placement of the present taxon is open to question. The genus *Meloscaphander*, while similar in external morphology to the present species, contains only species from the Banda Sea (Schepman 1913) or from the abyssal North Atlantic (Bouchet 1975). Until a thorough investigation of the internal anatomy of the present species is completed placement in *Meloscaphander* is tentative. The bifid tentacles of this species are similar to those of *Parvaplustrum sp A*, and it is possible that this taxon also belongs in *Parvaplustrum*.



Meloscaphander sp A a) ventral view of foot and parapodia; b) anterior oblique view of animal showing auriform oral tentacles, bilabiate anterior foot margin, and bifid tentacles; 3) apertural view of shell (drawn from a 3mm long specimen taken in 305m off Palos Verdes [Station 1A - January 1991]).