



**Southern California Association of
Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists**

3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California 90731

October 1990

Vol. 9, No.6

NEXT MEETING: Hesionidae

GUEST SPEAKER: Ron Velarde
City of San Diego

DATE: Monday, November 19, 1990, 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: Allan Hancock Foundation, Room 30
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA

MINUTES FROM MEETING ON October 15, 1990

Epitoniidae Workshop: Helen DuShane, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History conducted the Epitoniidae workshop for the October SCAMIT meeting. The Epitoniidae have a worldwide distribution with over 3000 recognized species. Of these there are 27 species that inhabit the eastern Pacific between Alaska and Cedros Island. Most of the species of epitoniids occur in the temperate and tropical latitudes within the first 40 meters, however some have been recorded at depths down to 350 meters. The two genera discussed at the meeting were Nitidiscala and Asperiscala. These two genera differ from each other in that Asperiscala has spiral ribs between the costae and Nitidiscala lacks spiral ribs between the costae.

Nitidiscala tincta (Carpenter, 1865) is the most common local species of Epitoniidae and is generally found only within the intertidal zone. However, N. tincta may also occur in deeper waters. Most of the epitoniids recorded are found to be associated with anemones. Helen is very interested in any observations concerning this association.

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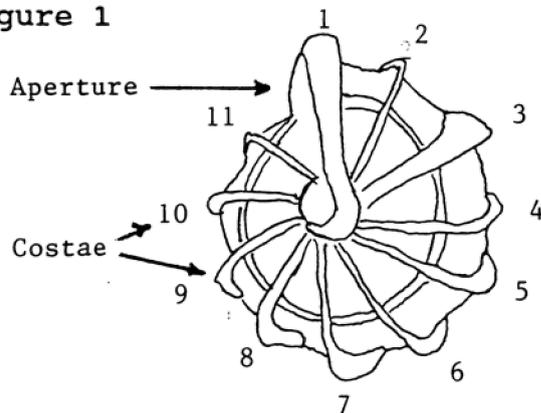
SCAMIT newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication
for formal taxonomic purposes.

There are four other species of Nitidiscala that occur in the offshore waters of the southern California bight; N. californica (Dall, 1917), N. hindsii (Carpenter, 1864), N. sawinae (Dall, 1903), N. indianorum (Carpenter, 1865). These species are very difficult to differentiate from each other. The participants at the epitoniid workshop concluded that identification of these five species should be limited to Nitidiscala spp. due to the fact that the only specimens commonly encountered by most SCAMIT members are small, and even distinguishing mature specimens can be a confusing task.

There are two species within the genus Asperiscala that occur with relative frequency within the southern California bight; A. lowei (Dall, 1906) and A. bellastrata (Carpenter, 1864). These two species can be differentiated by the number of costae per whorl and degree of spiral sculpturing between the costae. Asperiscala lowei has 25 - 32 costae per whorl and many fine spiral ribs between the costae. Asperiscala bellastrata has only 15 - 17 costae per whorl and has fewer spiral ribs between the costae than A. lowei. The number of costae is most reliable trait in the larger specimens. When identifying smaller specimens you should rely upon the degree of spiral sculpturing also.

To facilitate an accurate count of the costae per whorl the following procedure was suggested. Hold the shell so that the base of the columella faces you (fig. 1) (holding between the thumb and forefinger seems to work well even for small specimens). Begin counting starting with the aperture and ending with the first costa that is situated at a right angle to the aperture

Figure 1



If you are interested in more information on the epitoniids refer to the following reference: DuShane, H., 1979. The Family Epitoniidae (Mollusca:Gastropoda) in the northeastern Pacific. Veliger 22(2):91-134

Biological Criteria Meeting: The abstract for the poster to be displayed at the Biological Criteria meeting during December was not included in the previous edition of the SCAMIT newsletter as was mentioned. It is included in this newsletter.

New SCAMITEER: Alexander Patrick Duggan was born on October 10th, 1990 at 5:28pm. Alex weighed in at 8 lbs 15 oz. Congratulations to the new parents, Ross and Carolyn Duggan.

November SCAMIT Meeting: Just a reminder that the Spionidae workshop originally scheduled for the November meeting has been rescheduled for February. Larry Lovell is patiently waiting for your species lists of spionids.

Ron Velarde, City of San Diego will present a workshop on the Hesionids for the November SCAMIT meeting at the Allan Hancock Foundation worm lab. Remember to bring your hesionids to the workshop.

Taxonomic Sufficiency: A new report discussing the level of taxonomic sufficiency necessary to assess environmental impact has been published and may peak your interest. Taxonomic Level Sufficient for Assessing Pollution Impacts on the Southern California Bight Macrobenthos by Steven P. Ferraro and Faith A. Cole of the Pacific Ecosystems branch, Environmental Research and Development Laboratory, Narrangansett. The document was published by the Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Newport, Oregon 97365.

SCAMIT Christmas Party: THE SCAMIT Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 8th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Cabrillo Marine Museum. The party is potluck style. SCAMIT will provide the entree, drinks and plates/utensils. J.L. Barnard (Santa Claus) and James Thomas will attend this year's Christmas party. If you have any questions about the party, or if you would like to help you may contact Larry Lovell at (619) 945-1608.

Barnard Amphipod Workshop: Just a reminder that the Barnard Amphipod workshop will be held at the L.A.C.M.N.H. in the Times Mirror room at 9:30 am on Monday and Tuesday December 10th and 11th. Dr. James Thomas will conduct the workshop with Dr Barnard. Ron Velarde and Doug Diener will also present a workshop on Orchomene and Hippomedon.

SCAMIT Officers: If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers.

SCAMIT Officers:

President	Ron Velarde	(619) 226-0164
Vice-President	Larry Lovell	(619) 945-1608
Secretary	Ross Duggan	(619) 226-8175
Treasurer	Ann Martin	(213) 648-5317



**Regional Standardization of Taxonomy:
The Southern California Association of Marine
Invertebrate Taxonomists
(SCAMIT)**

Lawrence L. Lovell, Taxonomic Consultant, 1036 Buena Vista Drive
Vista, California 92083. SCAMIT Vice-President

and

Ronald G. Velarde, City of San Diego, Marine Biology Laboratory,
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SCAMIT President

Abstract

The Clean Water Act requires the implementation of aquatic habitat monitoring, and numerous surveys have been conducted to characterize those biological communities. A fundamental component of these surveys is taxonomic data which lists the taxa and their abundance. There are typically several surveys conducted by both public and private organizations within a given geographic region. A problem in realizing the full potential of these data is the lack of taxonomic consistency among surveys. The Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists (SCAMIT) was formed in 1982 to provide regional standardization among benthic marine surveys in the southern California bight. SCAMIT schedules a yearly agenda of taxonomic topics, including regular exchange of specimens that have been noted as inconsistently identified or are new to science. National and regional taxonomic experts lead workshops presenting innovative identification techniques, new taxonomic keys, and review of voucher collections. A central voucher collection is maintained consisting of specimens exchanged and reviewed at meetings. The results of these meetings and workshops are distributed in a monthly newsletter. Several aspects of biological criteria development can benefit from regional standardization of taxonomy. The biological survey design should include a component for regular calibration of taxonomic data. Selection and assessment of regional reference sites should utilize regionally standardized data. Selection of aquatic community components for detailed analysis, whether for statistical manipulation or toxicity testing, should be supported by the survey's taxonomic data. Biological indices, commonly used as regulatory tools to manage complex environmental impact issues, are dependent upon the quality and comparability of the underlying taxonomic data. SCAMIT's activities have greatly enhanced taxonomic quality control and standardization among benthic marine data bases in southern California. Implementation of taxonomic standardization in other regions should serve to improve national biological criteria for surface waters programs.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

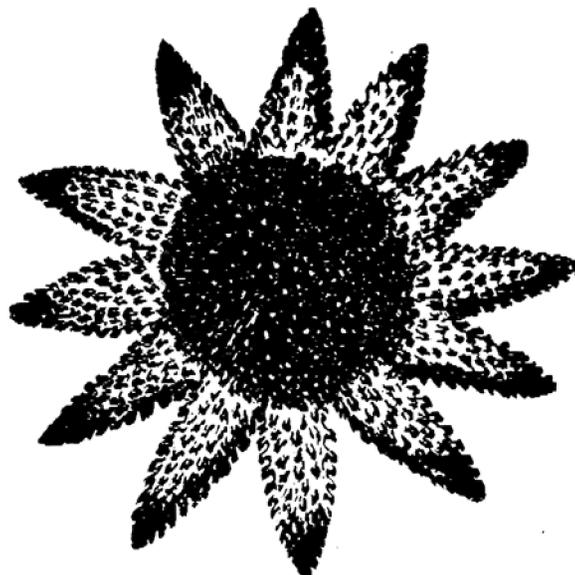
Echinoderms Collection Position

The Invertebrate Zoology Section at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County invites applications for a new position: COLLECTION MANAGER or CURATORIAL ASSISTANT, funded by the National Science Foundation. It will be filled in the winter of 1990, and is open immediately.

Appointment will be made at the appropriate level, depending on the experience of the selected applicant. Minimum qualifications are a BS or BA in biology, paleontology or museum science, with coursework in invertebrate zoology, or equivalent experience.

This full-time position is for 18 months, with the possibility of permanent appointment. Maximum starting salary is \$28,200/year plus benefits. Duties include reorganization, recuration, and inventory of a major systematic resource, the largest collection of Recent echinoderms on the West Coast.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae plus three letters of recommendation to Dr. Gordon Hendler, Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007. For questions regarding this position please telephone (213) 744-6391, (213) 744-3367, or FAX (213) 746-2999. LACMNH is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



LACM AWARDED NSF GRANT FOR ECHINODERM COLLECTION UPGRADE

Dr. Gordon Hendler, Invertebrate Zoology Section Head at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History announced an award made to the Echinoderm Collection in September. The National Science Foundation, Biological Resources Research Program, has provided \$209,950 for the improvement of the Museum's echinoderm collection.

During the last decade the collection has grown rapidly, chiefly through the incorporation of the Allan Hancock Foundation Collection and other "orphaned" collections. LACM now houses the largest echinoderm collection in the western United States and the third largest in the country; its holdings are cosmopolitan, with unexcelled coverage of the eastern Pacific and Caribbean faunas. NSF support will be used to purchase much needed supplies and equipment, and to hire technical personnel for the collection upgrade. Some grant funds will also be used to support visits to the Museum by specialists from other institutions, who will assist in working up portions of the collection.

As principal investigator, Hendler will implement an 18 month program designed to re-organize and transfer the specimens to environmentally controlled areas within the museum. New compactor carriages will be installed in space designed for alcohol preserved material, and new steel museum cabinets will be housed in a separate room dedicated to dry collection storage. Wet material will be transferred from inadequate glassware to new bottles, re-alcoholized, and shelved on compactors. Dry specimens in substandard containers will be transferred to plastic boxes, and part of the dry collection will be housed in new cases. A collection manager, to be appointed, will coordinate the collection transfer and reorganization, and prepare a collection inventory which will be used as the basis for anticipated future computerized cataloguing of the echinoderm holdings.