

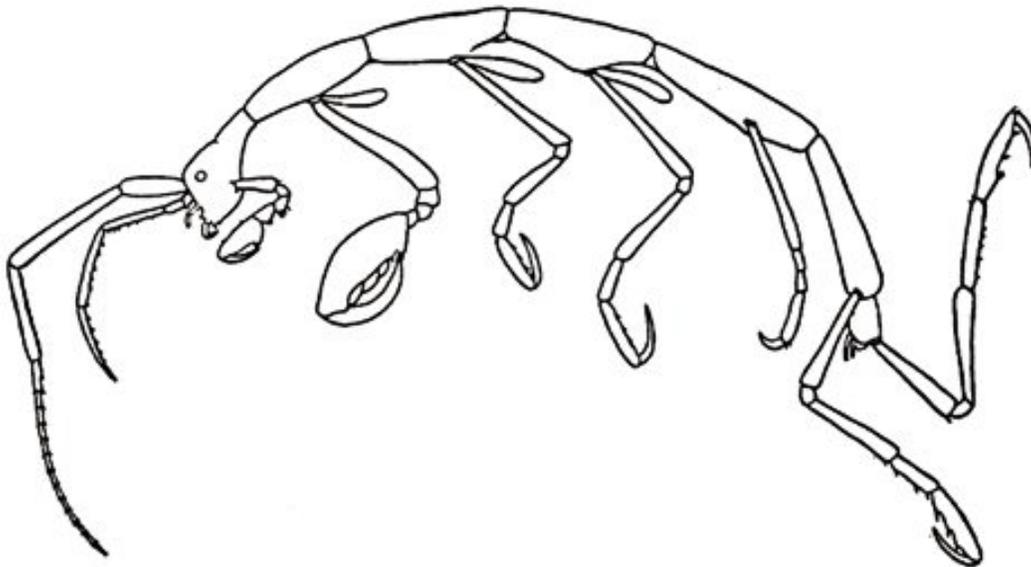
**S**OUTHERN  
**C**ALIFORNIA  
**A**SSOCIATION OF  
**M**ARINE  
**I**NVERTEBRATE  
**T**AXONOMISTS



May/June, 2015

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 34 No. 1



*Phtisica marina* Slabber 1769, after Vasilenko (1974). Whole animal.

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

**Publication Date: 6 November 2015**

***Due to the additional April meeting with visiting polychaete scientists at the LACNHM, we did not hold a May meeting. The various Laboratories working on the Regional Bight Survey (Bight'13) also needed additional time to prepare for the Bight'13 QC Reconciliation meetings.***

### 11 JUNE 2015, SPECIES LIST REVIEW COMMITTEE, SCCWRP

**Attendees:** Larry Lovell, Don Cadien (LACSD); Dean Pasko, Tony Phillips (DCE); Ron Velarde, Nick Haring (City San Diego); Kelvin Barwick (OCSD); Leslie Harris (LACMNH)

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Visit the SCAMIT website at: [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org) for the latest upcoming meetings announcements.

Don provided an introduction to the review of Ed 9 and development of Ed 10 of the SCAMT Species List, commenting on the list of non-controversial changes and the growing list of provisional species awaiting documentation to be included. Leslie asked about Ron's email exchange suggesting that species from Bight'13 would not be included until after Bight'13 QA has been completed, meaning Ed 11, even if voucher sheets exist. Don responded that there was an *a priori* decision to require outside expert confirmation of new species for addition to the list. With additional discussion we all came to an understanding that new species with voucher sheets or descriptive information as formal publication could be introduced to Ed 10, if the information had been widely distributed. Kelvin raised the issue that it was his understanding that new provisional species must have been included in reported data to be included on the Species List, and the Bight'13 data will not be reported until sometime in 2016.

There was significant discussion about the use of ID sheets to distinguish specimens relative to formal voucher sheets and what constitutes true distribution of a SCAMIT-ized voucher sheet. Larry commented that some of these image-filled ID sheets were beginning to substitute for a voucher sheet. Older voucher sheets had a higher bar for including inter-species comparisons and diagnostics characteristics; but adherence to this formatting has been mostly lost. Larry and Kelvin suggested that the requirement of a voucher sheet for new species be part of the Bight'13 Benthic Report recommendation.

In order to clear the list of "on-hold" provisional taxa, Nick suggested, again, to expand the definition of "publication" to include publication of voucher sheets, so that individuals preparing voucher sheets could receive some small reimbursement for their efforts. Some in attendance agreed that this might be an option.

Before moving on to the list, Nick asked the group to consider the current problems with the SCCWRP SQO Tool and the requirement that the tool use the SCAMIT Ed5 Species List. We decided that the limitation is with SCCWRP, not the requirement of the State of CA Regulation or anything else. Nick suggested that he would be able to perform the update, and distribute the updated list for confirmation and QA. However, there is an issue of non-reported taxa, such as those species reported by some non-public agencies and consultants who do analyses for smaller monitoring programs (e.g., Reynolds Desalination Facility, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, aka SPAWAR). Leslie confirmed that the SCCWRP SQO Guidance Document references SCAMIT Ed 5 instead of using language such as "most updated SCAMIT species list". This creates a problem for the updating the tool and be in conformance with the Guidance Document adopted by the State.

Dean suggested that perhaps SCAMIT should seek funding to pay a stipend to the SCAMIT President since SCAMIT's species listing is involved in so many State-sponsored tools (BRI, SQO, etc.), and the correct oversight of these efforts would be fairly time intensive (e.g., communicating with the State, SCCWRP, and other involved agencies).



With the observation by some that we can barely get funding from the agencies we serve, there was resignation that seeking the funds for an annual stipend was an impossible task, and we moved on to consider the changes to the SCAMIT species list to generate Ed 10.

We progressed forward quickly until we came upon the *Chaetozone*. Tony commented that he had presented a workshop on the various provisional taxa of *Chaetozone*, but they were not added to the list. This raised the issue of what are the requirements for inclusion of provisional (or new) taxa to the list, and whether or not they have been codified and distributed or posted to the website. We suggested that the Committee meet to set and codify these requirements. Kelvin suggested the use of an html document that included all the required information.

We concluded with a discussion of the necessary methods to distribute taxonomic information for inclusion in the next edition of the SCAMIT species listing. We covered three basic components to the process of getting new species, especially provisional taxa, vetted and confirmed so that they could be properly documented for inclusion to the SCAMIT species list.

**Taxonomic Information** – The following is the minimum amount of information required for a voucher or identification sheet to be posted to the SCAMIT website and distributed as a “valid” SCAMIT Sheet. (Final Draft Guidelines attached.)

- Taxa name (described or provisional) and abbreviated phylogeny (Phylum, Class, Order, Family)
- Authority (original describing authority and year OR describer of provisional taxon and month-year)
- Synonyms (if any)
- Location (Program, Station, Date of sample collection, Depth)
- Date of origination of sheet (may be different from publication date in SCAMIT NL)
- Known distribution (single site is OK if that is all that is available)
- Diagnostic characters
- Comparison with morphologically similar taxa with which it would be most easily confused
- Image(s) (drawn or photographs) – at least one demonstrating the diagnostic character
- Primary reference used to determine taxonomy

**Vetting** – The following is the recommended vetting process for a provisional or new species identification sheet to be posted to the website and distributed as a valid SCAMIT Voucher Sheet.

- SCAMIT meeting in which one or more of the more prominent SCAMIT members for that particular taxon are present to help confirm the identification or need for a provisional designation
- Distribution of provisional sheet with identifying characters via email to (1) prominent SCAMIT members for that particular taxon, or (2) the general SCAMIT list server
- We recommend requesting a 30-, 45-, or 60-day response.



**Distribution** – The following is the recommended distribution process for a SCAMIT Voucher or Identification Sheet, including the information described above, that would allow the taxon to be included in the SCAMIT Species List as a valid SCAMIT taxon. The following are not mutually exclusive, and a wide distribution (via email or newsletter) is required for inclusion in the SCAMIT Species Listing.

- SCAMIT Newsletter is the primary and preferred method of distribution. All voucher sheets will eventually be distributed within a SCAMIT NL, although the distribution of the final NL may lag behind the publication of the final voucher sheet (see below).
- Presentation at a SCAMIT meeting followed by (1) an email distribution to the SCAMIT membership or (2) publication in a SCAMIT NL

The final version of the approved Guidelines has been posted to the SCAMIT website, and is attached here.

The Committee was in agreement that there should be some effort expended to maintain a distinction between in-house provisional species and SCAMIT-ized taxa. Many provisional taxa start as an in-house provisional that is restricted internally to a specific agency or laboratory, as the taxonomist looks for additional specimens or attempts to get other members of their taxonomic team to recognize this seemingly new species. On occasion these in-house provisionals are shared with the greater SCAMIT community for comment. These in-house laboratory provisional taxa should maintain the use of the agency coding system (e.g., Agency/Taxonomist Code-#, such as *Genus* sp TP1 for Tony Phillips species 1). In most cases, a SCAMIT-ized provisional is given a letter designation (e.g., Isanthidae sp A SCAMIT 1989, whose synonymies include Anthozoa #96 Ljubenkov 1984).

## 22 JUNE 2015, BIGHT'13 INFAUNAL QA, LACSD

**Attendees:** Larry Lovell, Don Cadien, Chase McDonald, Bill Furlong, Terra Petry (LACSD); Dean Pasko, Tony Phillips (DCE); Kelvin Barwick, Danny Tang, Laura Terriquez, Ken Sakamoto, Rob Gamber (OCSA); Matt Hill, Chip Barrett, David Drumm (EcoAnalysts)

### Business

Larry introduced the new Match/Not-match tables that compare the infauna identifications from a primary taxonomist with those of the secondary (QA) taxonomist for the Bight'13 samples. LACSD personnel provided the secondary taxonomy for all OCSA and EcoAnalysts samples, which were the samples being reviewed today. This is the first time that the QA Resolution Process would be performed via electronic files (i.e., Excel output), and so we welcomed comments and suggested improvements. Kelvin immediately suggested the addition of a simple taxonomic hierarchy.

The Match/Not-match table compares both the identification (species/taxon) name and the count (abundance) for that taxon, and produces a results table listing the original identification/count, the secondary identification/count, considering the specimens removed for voucher or further identification, and identifying those records that match and those that do not. The primary and secondary taxonomists then meet to discuss and resolve the differences.

Larry explained the importance of the use of the line numbers that identify each record begin resolved in the Lines Involved in Resolution column, the coding sheet describing the Discrepancy Classifications and Resolution Codes and their use in the corresponding columns, Taxa Change and Abundance Change columns, and the use of the inserted blank lines to add taxa not currently recorded in the Match/Not-match file. He also reminded everyone that this effort is directed at the primary taxonomist's identifications and that they were not to be concerned with recording errors



by the secondary taxonomist.

We also discussed the resulting QA data and use of that data to identify the types of errors committed and the use of those results to direct future SCAMIT meeting topics, not just with respect to taxa, but process or procedures and methods to reduce particular errors.

**Sample review highlights:** Taxonomic QC reconciliations were performed on five OCSD and three EcoAnalysts Bight'13 samples. The LACSD secondary taxonomists paired up with appropriate primary taxonomists from each lab, rotating between the two labs during the day. Specimens in need of resolution were pulled and reviewed for identification or count correction. Resolutions on not-match taxa for all samples were reached. The proper spreadsheet codes and notations were discussed. The taxonomic review process uncovered a couple interesting problems. The OCSD staff found that there were upload issues with the data reported from DCE taxonomists. Several taxa did not get reported out to the Match/Not-match table although the DCE taxonomists had reported the data in their data submission and Kelvin was able to confirm the data in his raw data file. Kelvin was going to have to investigate this problem further. Thankfully, it affected only five of several hundred records from two stations.

We also discovered the presence of another species that had not been previously recognized by SCAMIT taxonomists. *Phtisica marina* (Amphipoda: Caprellidae), a European species, had mistakenly been reported by Dean Pasko (DCE) as *Hemiproto* sp A but Chase McDonald had recognized it as something else. After some careful review, and the employment of Don Cadien's recent review of the Caprelloidea (Cadien revised 2015), Dean was able to quickly discover the error in his ID and confirmed *P. marina*. *Phtisica* and *Hemiproto* both have 6-segmented pereopods III and IV and large bulging eyes, but are distinguished in Don's key by the character of the abdominal appendages. Male *Hemiproto* have a pair of small, uni-articulate abdominal appendages accompanied by non-setose lobes; while females have a single pair of uni-articulate appendages. In contrast, male *Phtisica* have three pairs of elongate bi-articulate appendages, and the female with two pair plus a raised anterior projection. The result demonstrated the issue of complacency that can occur, even with experienced taxonomists. In this case, many SCB taxonomists considered *Hemiproto* to be the only option for SCB caprellids with 6-articulate pereopods III and IV, especially with bulging eyes. However, it is prudent to consider alternative species when dealing with embayment habitat, particularly areas rarely sampled such as the estuary near Seal Beach Wildlife Refuge and nearby marina.

### 29 June 2015, Bight'13 Infaunal QA, LACSD

**In Attendance:** Larry Lovell, Don Cadien, Chase McDonald, Bill Furlong, Terra Petry (LACSD); Dean Pasko, Tony Phillips (DCE), Greg Lyon, Erin Oderlin (CLAEMD)

Larry re-explained the Match/Not-match tables to those new to the process and described the advantages of the single species vouchering during the reconciliation process. Notes from original records of taxonomist have also been very helpful, so primary taxonomists have been asked to bring their original ID sheets/bench sheets. As well as the benefit of shared information between taxonomists.

Once the data reconciliations have been completed, we'll prepare a synoptic data review table for review. This process will follow the CSD-LACSD meeting later in August.

Larry also reviewed the use of the Discrepancy and Resolution Codes for Erin and Greg, particularly since both were observing the process and not necessarily involved with the identifications. Primary taxonomists were reminded that the Matched data (ID and counts) also has to be copied from the Primary Taxonomist columns and pasted into the Resolved Species and Resolved Abundance Columns of the Match/Not-match data sheet.



In addition we discussed the effort to prepare a set of recommendations of how to handle this for the SWAMP protocols.

**Review highlights:** Taxonomic QC reconciliations were performed on three ABC, six CLAEMD, and four Weston, Bight' 13 samples. The LACSD secondary taxonomists paired up with appropriate primary taxonomists from each lab, rotating between the two labs during the day. Specimens in need of resolution were pulled and reviewed for identification or count correction. Resolutions on not-match taxa for all samples were reached. The proper spreadsheet codes and notations were discussed. A due date for return of the Match/Not-Match spreadsheets was agreed upon.

### Bibliography

#### QA References

Cadien, D.B. 2015. Amphipoda of the Northeast Pacific (Equator to Aleutians, intertidal to abyss): VII. Caprelloidea – a review Donald B. Cadien, LACSD 22July04 (revised 20 April 2015).



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org)

### SCAMIT OFFICERS

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The SCAMIT newsletter is published every two months and is distributed freely to members in good standing. Membership is \$15 for an electronic copy of the newsletter, available via the web site at [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org), and \$30 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$60. All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

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**Introduction** – At the June 11, 2015 SCAMIT Species List Review Committee, the Committee decided that SCAMIT should codify the method by which species are added to the SCAMIT Species List, and standardize the minimum information required for voucher or identification sheets to be accepted by the Committee. The resulting Guidelines were adopted on July 24, 2015.

**Purpose** – These guidelines that follow specify the process by which a provisional species may be added to the SCAMIT Species List.

**Taxonomic Data** – A SCAMIT voucher sheet should minimally contain the following elements:

1. Taxon name including an abbreviated phylogeny (following the strict orthography provided for in the most current SCAMIT Species List)
2. Author and date of origination of the voucher sheet
3. Applicable synonyms (indicate “none” if no synonyms are available)
4. Location(s) for all material examined (Program, Station (including Latitude/Longitude if possible), Date collection, Sample Depth)
5. Diagnostic characters
6. Comparison with morphologically similar taxa outlining differences
7. Images (digital images and/or line drawings at print resolution) that demonstrate diagnostic characters
8. Known geographical distribution (single occurrences acceptable)
9. Literature used

**Review** – A voucher sheet may take two different, though not mutually exclusive, routes for initial review (below). In each case, the resulting *draft* document should be circulated to all SCAMIT members via electronic media (e.g., General Discussion list server). Barring any mitigating circumstances, members will have 30 days to reply with comments.

1. A provisional voucher sheet can be presented and reviewed at a regular SCAMIT meeting appropriate to the species in question; however,
2. Alternatively, a provisional voucher sheet can be distributed and discussed with known expert(s) in the field.

**Publishing** – At the end of the review period, the final voucher sheet(s) should be distributed to membership either through publication in a newsletter and/or electronically via the General Discussion list server. Following publication, the voucher sheet will be posted in the taxonomic toolbox on the SCAMIT website.

**Deadline** – Voucher sheets need to be published according to above guidelines no later than **June 1** to be included that year’s edition of the SCAMIT Species List (published on July 1 of each year).

These requirements go into effect upon their publication at SCAMIT.org on the date indicated therein. The Species Review Committee will be the final arbiter as to which taxa will be included in the Species List. **See Example Voucher Sheet** (page 2).

## SCAMIT Voucher Sheet

Species: *Nuculana* sp A

Group: Nuculanidae

Vol. 25, No. 3

Date examined: 11 September 2006

Vouchered by: P. Valentich-Scott & K. Barwick

Material Examined: 3 spm: CSD Sta. B11(2), 14JUL92, 288 FT, SBMNH#80296  
1 spm: CSD Sta. B11(1), 14JUL92, 288 FT, SBMNH#80298  
1 spm: CSD Sta. B5(2). 14JUL92, 200FT, SBMNH #80297  
14 spm: CLAEMD Sta. FB17, SMB, 25JUL05, 115m  
1 spm: LACSD Sta. 9B JUL96

Synonyms: *Nuculana elenensis* of authors SCB not (G. B. Sowerby I in Broderip and G. B. Sowerby I, 1833)  
*Nuculana* sp SD1 Barwick, 1992

Description: Shell periostracum silky, with lighter colored streaks radiating from the umbone to the outer margin of the shell (seen in dry specimens); color is light tan to dirty white (Fig. 1-3) Sculpture of slightly rounded commarginal ridges evenly spaced ending abruptly at the posterior-dorsal slope. Posterior produced in sharp point, acute. Shell moderately inflated with narrow escutcheon. Lunule shallow, narrow (Fig. 3). Length to 6 mm.

Related Species: *Nuculana elenensis*, unlike *N. sp A*, has a pointed strongly recurved posterior. *N. taphria* (Dall, 1896), when compared to *N. sp A*, has a more rounded, produced posterior. The commarginal sculpture of heavy ribs becomes obsolete along the posterior-dorsal slope. *N. penderi* (Dall & Bartsch, 1910) has a shorter, less acute posterior, slightly recurved in larger specimens. The shell of *N. penderi* is typically plumper and can reach a much larger size than *N. sp A*. *N. eburnean* (G. B. Sowerby, 1833), a panamic species, possesses an acute pointed posterior but has fine dense commarginal sculpturing.

Distribution: Point Loma to Santa Monica Bay, California. Depth for CSD records: 60 – 200 m.

Comments: Historically this species has been identified as *N. elenensis* by workers in the SCB. Based, in part, on these records Coan, et al (2000) reported the distribution for *N. elenensis* to occur as far north as Santa Monica Bay. Subsequently Coan and Valentich-Scott (in preparation) now believe it to be restricted to the Panamic Province. A comparison of the SCB material with the images of the syntypes from the BMNH bears this out. All southern California records for *N. elenensis* are in doubt.

Literature: Coan, Eugene V., Paul Valentich-Scott and Frank R. Bernard. 2000. Bivalve Seashells of Western North America: Marine Bivalve Mollusks from Arctic Alaska to Baja California. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California. 764 pp.

SCAMIT Voucher Sheet

Species: *Nuculana* sp A  
Group: Nuculanidae

Vol. 25, No. 3



**Fig. 1** – CLAMED: FB17/SMB, 115m, 25JUL05 (Length ranges from 5.5 mm to 2.5 mm.) Dry mount



**Fig. 2** – LACSD: 9B 7/1996 (length = 4.9 mm) Dry mount



**Fig. 3** – CSD: B11(2), 14JUL92, 288 FT, SBMNH#80296 (Length ranges from 5.2 mm to 2.6 mm.) Dry mount