

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS



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SCAMIT Newsletter

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Invasion of the Red Crabs (*Pleuroncodes planipes*)
Mission Bay, San Diego, CA
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The SCAMIT newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes.

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JULY 2017

As is customary, there was no meeting in July due to the heavy field schedule for most of the POTWs.

14 AUGUST 2017, EUSIRIDAE, LACSD - D. CADIEN MEETING LEAD

Attendance: Ron Velarde, Katie Beauchamp, CSD; Jennifer Smolenski, Cody Larsen, CLAEMD; Larry Lovell, DCE; Jovairia Loan, LACSD; Kelvin Barwick, OCSD.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Visit the SCAMIT website at: www.scamit.org for the latest upcoming meetings announcements.

The business meeting began with Kelvin announcing upcoming meetings. The 11 September meeting will be at the NHMLAC and will address Terebellids, led by Leslie. The October meeting will also be at the NHMLAC and will be a tutorial on microscopic photography and associated software programs; meeting leads will be Leslie Harris and Dean Pentcheff. After October we have nothing scheduled. Kelvin called for volunteers. Possible topics were discussed and Kelvin revealed that he would be willing to lead a Polychaete Toolbox review in November. It could be the first of many as it will take time to cover all the families. Don suggested that we don't need "meeting leads" in order to conduct Bight standardization workshops.

This train of thought lead to a discussion on the Bight QA process and how it could inform future topics. Larry reminded everyone that, as in earlier Bight projects, problematic taxa are identified and attempts are made to recruit taxonomists willing to take them on. In Bight'13 those groups were Oligochaetes, *Photis* spp, and Cirratulids. Since they did not receive funding at the time, they are still viable candidates for B'18 specialty taxonomy. It was decided that for this next Bight project members should be polled to see what phyla are suggested.

It was announced that SCAMIT's PayPal account is now up and running for conducting financial transactions. We are getting a discount on fees via our nonprofit status. A submission page with a link to PayPal will need to be added to the website so that members can make payments online.

The annual SCAMIT Executive Committee Meeting was held in July and the minutes are included at the end of this newsletter.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library's (BHL) Public Outreach group has contacted SCAMIT asking if we would be interested in contributing a blog post to their web site. The post would address how the BHL has influenced SCAMIT and its members. Kelvin mentioned that he could envision such a document but laments not having the time to write it. Volunteers? It was also suggested that SCAMIT could make the newsletter archive available on the BHL. The Executive Committee has given their blessing and Kelvin will pursue this in the coming months.

Don had the floor next and apologized for the delay in the publication of Edition 12 of the SCAMIT Species List. He's working on it and it's getting close. He noted that cross checking all the entries takes a long time. Kelvin reiterated that others are welcome to join the committee and help Don with the Species Lists.

Don reported that the 13th International Copepod meeting held July 16-21 at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium went well and the Proceedings will be published soon.



With the business meeting concluded it was time to start the taxonomy portion of the day. Don began by distributing 3 handouts:

- 1) A summary by Don Cadien regarding the hierarchical changes in Amphipoda according to Lowry & Myers, 2017
- 2) **Amphipoda of the Northeast Pacific** (Equator to Aleutians, intertidal to abyss): XXII. Eusiroidea – a review. Donald B. Cadien, LACSD. 22 July, 2004 (revised 8 March, 2015).
- 3) Spring 2017 Taxonomy Training—Amphipods: Eusiridae. Prepared by DCE (Dean Pasko) February 2016.

There have been many changes to Amphipoda hierarchies in Lowry & Myers (2017). They create a new working hierarchy for amphipods which is based on morphological character traits. Some examples of the changes are:

- The integration of the Hyperiidids
- Colomastids have been pulled out into a new suborder
- The infraorder Lysianassida is now integrated under the suborder Amphilochidea

Don felt that the paper rounds things off nicely, but there is still more work to do. It offers a unifying characteristic for all Eusirids – the attachment point for the gnathopods being not at the base, but distally, such that they look like they swivel, which Don found very unsatisfying. He stated that there is no single characteristic or small group of characteristics that define Eusirids. They are a ‘*pastiche*’ of a group with no single synapomorphy. “*They are like ordering Chinese food. Most people will get rice, but some could get noodles*”.

The group shows great diversity in the NEP. They are found mostly in the north and in deeper waters. The most prevalent Eusirids found in our local monitoring samples are *Rhachotropis*, which do not display the characteristic of a single attachment point of the gnathopods, therefore, much of the paper doesn’t impact our local species.

Some primary points to take note of in the Lowry and Myers publication, relative to eusiroids, include:

- As mentioned above, none of the *Rhachotropis* have a ‘Eusirid gnathopod’
- *Eusiroides* was transferred to Pontogeneidae in the Calliopioidea
- In the **Key to the NEP genera of the family Eusiridae** (D. Cadien, 2006), “*everything below couplet 6 is now no longer in the Eusiridae family*” (But as Don vehemently stated - “*Who cares what the name is?! It doesn’t matter what we call it, as long as we all call it the same thing.*”). You can always trace the species back to the current family, if you’ve identified the specific taxon correctly, even using an outdated (according to familial placement) key.
- Eusirids are hunters that enter the water column to feed
- Bateidae are “weird”; they are algal associated in shallow waters. Gnathopod 1 is greatly reduced, vestigial, and consists of only two articles (G2 is normally developed).

After Don finished his discussion, Ron Velarde led a microscope ID session of Eusirids vs.



Rhachotropis (5 species) using the table ***Rhachotropis of the SCB*** (per SCAMIT NL Vol 33, No. 5) and associated diagrams.

Ron stressed some key morphological traits:

- Shape of the telson
- Length of the incision on telson (cleft vs notched)
- Shape of the eyes
- Number/order of toothed ridges on Pleonites 1-3 and on Urosomite 1

After everyone had a turn at the microscopes, the meeting was adjourned.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

J.K. Lowry & A.A. Myers. 2017. A Phylogeny and Classification of the Amphipoda with the establishment of the new order Ingolfiellida (Crustacea: Peracarida). *Zootaxa* 4265 (1): 001–089.



15 JULY 2017, SCAMIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, DANA PT, CA

Attendance: Kelvin Barwick (President), Leslie Harris (Vice President), Dean Pentcheff (Webmaster), Erin Oderlin (Treasurer), Megan Lilly (Secretary).

Kelvin called the meeting to order and we opened with a comment from Dean stating that he'd like to add an item to the agenda – the Taxonomic Toolbox hierarchy is based on an older/ outdated version of the SCAMIT Species List. Do we need to bring it in-line with the most recent edition or do we care? That item was added to the agenda, and from there we started going through it in order.

Secretary – Megan Lilly

Megan stated that she was almost caught up with newsletter production; Vol 35 No. 5 will be out within the week, and Vol 36 No. 1 will be out in 2 -3 weeks.

Next was a discussion regarding the NL editor position. This was historically held by Don Cadien but increasing work responsibilities have limited the time he has available for editing. Thus for the last few years most of the NL editing has been done by the Secretary position. An Action Item was created for Megan to follow up with Don and see if he wants to be “re-involved”, or if the layout, editing, and publishing aspects will continue to be combined and performed by the Secretary.

Megan then handed out a bid she had received from Fed Ex Office for printing the newsletters. The bid was reviewed by the officers and approved; going forward Fed Ex Office in San Diego will be printing the newsletters. She is still working on setting up an account so that SCAMIT can be billed directly. In the interim, Megan will cover the cost and be reimbursed by SCAMIT.

Next was a discussion on strategy for getting minutes from meetings in a timely manner. Megan recently attended the business portion of a polychaete meeting and addressed attendees; she asked that at the beginning of each SCAMIT meeting a volunteer should be named for taking minutes before the taxonomic portion of the meeting begins. When she asked for a volunteer for that day's meeting, at first there was only the sound of crickets... but then Jennifer Smolenski from CLA-EMD volunteered and Megan received the minutes in record time. However, that still leaves Megan worried about the future and finding willing volunteers.

ACTION ITEM - Megan to email Ben Ferraro (OCSD) and Jennifer Smolenski (CLA-EMD) and see if they'd be willing to be the designated “minute takers” for Crustacea (Ben) and Polychaete (Jen) meetings. [update: emails sent and both have agreed. Thanks to Ben and Jen!]

Next we covered the idea of making old editions of the Species List available on the SCAMIT website. Kelvin had a concern about people accidentally accessing an outdated List and using it incorrectly. Dean's solution was to put an “obsolete” watermark on the pages of the old editions and also, they will only be accessed by clicking on an “archive” tab that Dean will create. With those measures in place we were comfortable with the idea. We still need to discuss the logistics of getting the old editions posted.

ACTION ITEM – Kelvin will email the SLRC Species List Review Committee (SLRC) and let them know that the Executive Committee is proposing posting previous editions of the List, and seek feedback.



Treasurer – Erin Oderlin

Erin started by letting us know the database fund is low. For some time withdrawals from the fund were not recorded so it looks as if the amount hasn't changed. Erin was seeking approval to transfer funds from the general checking account in to the database fund account in order to keep paying Dean for his webmaster services. It was at this point that Kelvin stated we don't necessarily need to use database funds to pay Dean. Some discussion ensued and it was decided that we could fold the remaining database money in to the general checking account and pay Dean from that.

Next Erin stated that SCAMIT made a whopping \$4.35 on the CD. While that amount is not impressive it was still decided to just leave the CD funds where they are for the time being.

Don Cadien purchased Mary Bergen's microscope which she had donated to SCAMIT in order to assist us with fundraising.

SCAMIT paid for the Christmas lunch as well as the September General Membership (GM) meeting lunch with a total expense of \$600; Erin queried whether we should repeat that this year or if we should plan on paying for just one lunch a year. Leslie suggested replacing the Christmas lunch with a BBQ in July but the last time that was attempted there was low attendance. We decided to forgo both the July BBQ and the Christmas lunch and simply pay for one lunch a year which will be combined with a General Membership meeting, either in September or December.

Kelvin then moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented and all members voted in favor.

Next Erin told us she has had some problems with Quicken. She can't get the books to balance in that program, but she has kept a separate file in Excel and everything balances. Erin asked if she can just use Excel and if we can archive the Quicken database. We agreed and Dean told her that archiving a Quicken database might be tricky so to simplify things she could export, or copy and paste, the Quicken report in to Excel and we can archive that.

Erin is keeping the upcoming International Polychaete Conference (IPC) monies completely separate. She gave blank checks to Larry and he is scanning copies of the checks as he writes them and sending them to her. Kelvin stated that he is OK with that, but wants to make sure we stay below the \$50k non-profit threshold. Erin then asked if she should add a line to the treasurer summary next year and we all agreed that would be a good idea.

Our current membership status is: 148 members; 92 are in good standing, 56 are delinquent; Erin will be sending out delinquent emails in the next month.

Erin is working on signing SCAMIT up for a PayPal account. They require that we verify our 501(c)(3) status which she is working on; once that is complete she hopes to have our account up and running later this year. [update: Our PayPal account is now functional]

We briefly discussed the PayPal transaction fee of 63 cents and how that would be covered. We decided that members who want to use PayPal to pay their membership dues can add the 63 cents to their total. We didn't need a membership vote to enact this decision because we are not actually raising dues, we are only including a transaction fee for those members who decide to use PayPal.

ACTION ITEM - Dean and Erin will work together to get a PayPal button added to the SCAMIT website.



The next financial topic was account access – Larry still needs to be able to sign checks until the IPC is over; currently the signatories for SCAMIT are Larry and Erin. Once the IPC is complete, Larry will be removed as a signatory and Kelvin will be added.

Vice President – Leslie Harris

Leslie reviewed currently scheduled meetings. August will be amphipods at LACSD. September will be terebellids at the NHMLAC and Leslie has decided she is going to break terebellids in to groups and hold different meetings for each group. October is a meeting on digital photography lead by Dean and Leslie at the NHMLAC. As of right now there is nothing scheduled for November and December. Leslie thought December might be the perfect time for a general membership meeting combined with a Christmas lunch hosted by SCAMIT. Everyone present approved of the idea. However, that still leaves nothing for November.

Leslie possibly has some experts lined up for next year; Bonnie Bain and her husband Fred, who is an expert on leeches; Kevin Kocot who is a professor at the University of Alabama and specializes in aplacophorans. Also, there will be a MARINE meeting at Cabrillo in February and Leslie proposed bringing Gretchen Lambert down, partially funded by SCAMIT; all officers approved this idea.

Leslie is hoping to fill in other months with volunteers at the GM meeting in December. Kelvin offered the idea of notebook review meetings to prep for B'18. Leslie agreed and suggested the possibility of two meetings per month leading up to B'18 as the time approaches. We decided to cover those issues at the GM meeting and discuss groups that need review prior to B'18. Kelvin suggested approaching Austin Hendy (NHMLAC) about holding a meeting on scaphopods. And, Leslie mentioned that Susan Kidwell may be coming in to town and her talks are always interesting.

Next up was a discussion regarding a project by Dr. Gustav Pauly. Dr. Pauly will be out in the fall of 2017 to talk to the Diversity Initiative of the Southern California Ocean (DISCO) team at the NHMLAC about his work on developing genetic marker identification tools for shallow marine inverts of Southern California. He wants to conduct a massive survey of west coast organisms; he's starting in the north and the idea is we will start in the south, collaborating and meeting in the middle, figuratively and actually. He sees SCAMIT as key to the success of the project. SCAMIT is the "lynch pin" for the species database he will be generating. Dean then gave a brief overview of Dr. Pauly's project and how it can benefit SCAMIT.

Leslie mentioned that WoRMS is now putting efforts in to developing regional databases.

Webmaster – Dean Pentcheff

Dean has not yet done the redesign trial for the SCAMIT website. He stated we haven't been keeping good statistics on how our site is being used. If we redesign our site using a package from a web host, statistics will be included.

Toolbox – mollusk updates are in, but how do we want to handle the outdated hierarchy (built on edition 8). It brings up the question of how do we deal with higher level taxonomic changes in the Toolbox?



Kelvin responded that we could pose this problem at the GM meeting. Can we collapse hierarchies? Or how do we want to deal with this? Toolbox hierarchy maintenance is a suggested subject for the GM meeting.

Remote Access – we need to find out from people at the most restrictive agencies, what software and online options are available to them. Would they prefer, or have access to, voice only or voice and video?

ACTION ITEM – Dean and Kelvin will create a survey and send it out to the various agencies to determine their abilities and desires.

At this point Kelvin chimed in and stated that the BHL has contacted us and offered to archive our newsletters. A vote was taken and the officers agreed to allow this. BHL will need to work with Dean. We are hoping this should eliminate vulture sites. It was suggested to include anything that is already up on the web relating to our newsletters.

Kelvin announced that 14 Sept 2017 will be the kick off meeting for B'18 at SCCWRP. Since not all the officers had seen the announcement he offered to forward the information to the Executive Committee.

At this point it was after 4 pm so we voted to adjourn even though we hadn't made it through the entire agenda. Leslie proposed we finish the meeting via Skype at a future date. Hopefully doing so before the B'18 kick off meeting, so we can have a series of proposals/ideas on how SCAMIT will fit in to the larger picture of the project.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: 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, 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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