

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS



May–August, 2020

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 39 No. 1-2



Pycnopodia helianthoides, Photo by Phil Garner, contributed by Mary Wicksten

This Issue

MAY - JULY 2020 – ALL MEETINGS CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19	2
10 AUGUST 2020, ECHINODERM TOOLBOX REVIEW, ZOOM	2
24 AUGUST 2020, SPECIES LIST REVIEW COMMITTEE, ZOOM.....	3
LITERATURE CITED	6
SCAMIT OFFICERS.....	7

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

Publication Date: March 2021

MAY - JULY 2020 – ALL MEETINGS CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19**10 AUGUST 2020, ECHINODERM TOOLBOX REVIEW, ZOOM**

Attendance: Erin Oderlin, CLAEMD; Megan Lilly, Ricardo Martinez (business only), CSD; Dean Pentcheff, NHMLAC; JoAnne Linnenbrink, LACSD; Ernie Ruckman, Laura Terriquez, Bryce Perog (intern), Danny Tang (business only), Kelvin Barwick (business only), OCSD; Mary Wicksten, TAMU; Tom Biksey, Retired.

We were all very excited as this was our first meeting since March. Kelvin opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first ever SCAMIT Zoom meeting hosted by Dean Pentcheff and the NHMLAC. He noted that as much as we may miss our in-person meetings, having them virtually will allow people at greater distances to attend. We were happy to welcome attendees that we don't normally "see", and it was suggested that even post-COVID we can make virtual meetings available to all members to be more inclusive. Don pointed out that we have had a remote meeting in the past with Kevin Kocot. He gave his Aplacophora presentation via Zoom at the June 2019 meeting at OCSD. However, in that instance Kevin was the only remote attendee, and we could see and hear him, but he could only hear us.

Kelvin asked attendees - How long should meetings be? Should we try to fill an entire day? Do we want to start earlier, say 8:30 or 9, since people are no longer commuting to meetings? These details weren't finalized at the time. [Since then, it has been decided that meetings will begin at 8:30 AM and run for 4 hours, maximum.]

The Executive Committee voted to purchase a Zoom subscription for SCAMIT so that we can have control of the meetings. It was wryly mentioned that the monthly dues for Zoom are less than what SCAMIT normally pays for donuts. Kelvin then asked for a few introductions from our more distant attendees.

Upcoming meetings were announced:

- 14 September 2020 - Polychaete Toolbox Review
- 19 October 2020 - Provisional Species Website, lead Cody Larsen
- 26 October 2020 - Species List Review Committee (SLRC)
- 9 November 2020 - Juvenile *Tellina*, lead T. Phillips

Don took a moment to thank his coworkers, especially Terra Petry, for helping him get online so people can see and hear him. The virtual work world has been a learning curve for all of us.

With the business portion over, Erin opened the taxonomy portion of the meeting. She had downloaded the contents of the Echinoderm Toolbox and after a few initial technical difficulties was able to share her screen. We proceeded to review the Echinoderm section and the materials within. We kept an Excel sheet of recommended changes and completed Asteroidea and Echinoidea. We will need a second meeting to cover the Ophiuroids and Holothuroids.



In a post-meeting discussion, it was mentioned that at the December meeting we should address how to store and make accessible a large compendium of trawl invertebrate field photos. Also, whether or not we would link the trawl invert photos to the Toolbox. If so, there may be issues, for instance, how would we create a spot for something like *Florometra serratissima*, as there is currently no line for it in the Toolbox.

Mary Wicksten kindly offered to send us photos of both *Centrostephanus coronatus* and *Pycnopodia helianthoides*. These two species are lacking good quality field photos by members.

It was noted that a potential SCAMIT intern project would be to conduct an inventory of voucher sheets associated with newsletter and run a comparison to what is present in the Toolbox.

And with that, we wrapped up our first Zoom SCAMIT meeting and felt, all things considered, it went well.

24 AUGUST 2020, SPECIES LIST REVIEW COMMITTEE, ZOOM

Attendance: Kelvin Barwick, Ben Ferraro, Danny Tang, OCSD; Katie Beauchamp, Megan Lilly, Wendy Enright, Ricardo Martinez-Lara, Veronica Rodriguez, Zoë Scott, CSD; Don Cadien, Brent Haggin, Jovairia (Jojo) Loan, LACSD; Larry Lovell, Tony Phillips, Dean Pasko, DCE; Greg Lyon, Erin Oderlin, Jennifer Smolenski, CLAEMD.

Kelvin opened the business meeting with a note of caution as it appears some of his emails to the List Server are being intercepted by people's spam filters and information is not getting through. So, be sure to check your spam folder if you feel that you have not heard anything from SCAMIT in a while. Today's meeting started at 8:00, but it was discussed and decided that 8:30 would be preferable, so going forward, all SCAMIT Zoom meetings will begin at 8:30. Our next regular SCAMIT meeting will be 14 September, a Polychaete Toolbox Review via Zoom.

Kelvin announced that SCAMIT purchased a subscription to Zoom for the purpose of holding meetings remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any SCAMIT officer can set up a meeting and any member can be made a cohost, allowing them full control. This was only our second Zoom meeting, but we can already see the opportunities it will provide to allow easier attendance for our more distant members and the potential to schedule shorter talks with outside experts. All of this for the low, low cost of only \$15/month.

Kelvin gave an overview of how he sees the SLRC evolving. Decisions regarding specific changes to the List will primarily be made by phyla leads and their respective groups rather than by the larger SLRC committee. The main group will act more like a steering committee. He then asked all phyla leads to give a progress update and if they felt the December 1st submission deadline for emended lists was attainable. A brief side discussion ensued about the possibility of using the Zoom feature that allows meetings to be recorded. That way the Secretary could go back to the recording for clarification of minutes. It could also provide an option for people who missed meetings to attend after the fact. It is under consideration, but no final decision was reached. The various phyla leads then gave updates on their progress.

- M. Lilly – nothing to report for her groups, but admitted she is woefully behind
- D. Cadien – not much in the arthropods



- B. Haggin – standing in for L. Harris, lead for Annelida, stated that the annelids are tricky. The Echiura and Sipuncula are now rolled in to polychaetes. He has been working on the match/not match feature with WoRMS and there will be many changes. As for Nemerteans, there are many discrepancies with WoRMS, but it was decided to leave the List as is.
- T. Phillips – is done with cnidarians. He has sent his changes to the subcommittee for review and has received no comments other than a thumbs up, so it is complete. Polyclads are also complete with a few changes at higher levels.
- W. Enright – nothing to report on Phoronids or Nematodes.
- K. Barwick – felt that his groups, Mollusca, Kinorhyncha and Entoprocta, were on target to meet the deadline.

At this point Don reminded everyone that we do not have to be in exact alignment with WoRMS, but if we do deviate, we need to justify why.

Don then asked the group if they have been seeing much in the way of new taxa, as he had been noting a lack. He wondered if we are approaching an asymptote. Brent commented that he had seen a little in the annelids, but mostly species complexes. Megan noted a few new provisional cnidaria and nemerteans seen during B'18. Kelvin listed quite a few provisional polychaete species for B'18 but he doesn't consider them ready to be added to the List. They were documented quickly and are not in any form to be vetted by SCAMIT. They have been uploaded to Cody Larsen's provisional species repository site. Brent noted he had a few polychaete provisionals as well, and is intending to have them SCAMITized.

Kelvin then shared his screen to review his proposed method for tracking front matter changes. He created a separate emend file for these changes. Don suggested not having a separate file but rather having it be part of the emended list. In his document, Kelvin had added line numbers to make it easier to reference and track where changes are needed. He pointed out that the most important changes to document are to the authority list section with the relevant references cited. This section is what Kelvin called the “exceptions list”, i.e., the listing of anything that deviates from Austin (1985). It was decided that it will be added as another worksheet within the emended Excel file. Don suggested that one should first add a line before each change that states, e.g., delete/replace lines x-z, and the following lines will contain rationales and explanations. Don asked if it were possible to embed links in an Excel file. For instance, adding a link to his email to the mollusk committee about why we are not accepting certain changes to Aplacophora. The question then became how to link that document to the emendations list. Kelvin is supposed to be keeping track of that. Don said that what he has been preparing are discussion documents, not final decisions. Brent suggested that for the annelid group, Leslie had set up a Google Drive for the committee to access, and perhaps that could be useful across groups. If there is a published paper that needs to be referenced, perhaps a link could be included. There was a suggestion to create a SCAMIT SLRC Google Drive. Kelvin will investigate the idea.

The issue of how to deal with the move of echinarians and sipunculans to polychaetes, was revisited. It was recommended to make a comment in the front matter letting users know to look for those phyla in the polychaete section of the List. Jojo asked, at what point will they stop being listed separately in the front matter and instead be dissolved into the annelids? It was thought that this should be an action item for Ed. 14.



Kelvin then wanted to discuss nonclassical phylogenetic classifications, e.g., Cohort and Subterclass, found in WoRMS. Don stated that we do not recognize them at this time.

Next question was, should spelling changes be listed as synonyms? It was decided that if a spelling change occurred in the published literature then the prior spelling of the name should be listed as a synonym. However, if a spelling error was due to a human foible in the previous edition, it does not need to be synonymized. All spelling errors corrected, regardless of their origins, should be noted in red font. The entire species name will be in red font. If it is just one letter(s) change it could go unnoticed. This led to a long discussion of how this has been handled in previous editions.

Brent stated that with regard to polychaete synonyms, he will need to review provisional species and see if they are now a synonym of described species. He noted that within the polychaetes there have been splits of some species and therefore some of the provisionals may now fit in one of these new species. These splits will become synonymies “in part” of described species.

Kelvin told Phyla leads that if they want to schedule their own subcommittee group meetings on Zoom, they only need to reach out to any SCAMIT officer. He does not think we can have multiple meetings at a time, however. Erin offered to investigate that possibility. We will have to determine a scheduling system, should it become necessary. Jennifer said that Zoom does offer break out groups, but it depends on which account level was purchased.

Tony offered assistance to Megan which she gratefully accepted. He will be working with her on changes in the front matter for cnidarians in particular.

Don wanted to thank Kelvin and all the SLRC members for stepping up and taking over the process of producing the Species List. He is glad to be a small cog in a large engine, rather than trying to do it himself. He hopes that if we eventually go fully electronic, we can draw in people from further away and allow for more comments and input.

Larry asked for a status update on B'18 identification resolutions. Co-chair Wendy responded that she is working with SCCWRP. She has suggested that they need to decide how they want to move forward; either accept a delay in report production or move forward without full resolution. That led to a discussion about resolving B'18 re-ids. We can at least start the process and deal later with those issues that would need face to face interaction, as some resolution could be done remotely.

Dean Pasko extended a big thank you to Tony for sharing his emended file to the cnidaria group for their review. Dean found it served as a helpful “how to” example.

Kelvin mentioned that Linda Kuhn from MBARI had reached out about some discrepancies between our List and WoRMS. Don followed up with her and was able to answer most of her questions. Linda is comfortable with the Match Tool in WoRMS and offered to help anyone who needed it. Kelvin also feels proficient with the tool now and offered his assistance as well.

Kelvin talked about his February 21, 2020 meeting with Wai-Yin Kwan and Dean Pentcheff regarding development of the Species List database. He thanked Dean for setting up the meeting and briefly summarized his notes.



- Before seeking funding for the database project, we would need to get buy-in from SCAMIT members and others who use the List. If people are using the List the way it is currently, will they be interested in developing and using a database version?
- We will need to consider maintenance cost for any software package; bugs are inevitable.
- The initial database proposal should include minimum requirements, starting with basic software to manage and publish the List. When seeking financial support, enhancements such as BRI/P codes, collection data, images, etc., will be selling points to future backers.
- When shopping around we need to be wary, as all developers are not created equal and may not have our best interest at heart.

Kelvin would like to hire Wai-Yin to prepare a request for proposal (RFP), but needs to look into funding. He will check and see if she is still available. Don suggested that Kelvin should consider reaching out to Linda Kuhnz, as she might want to be more involved and potentially participate in the database project.

When asked, Kelvin stated that he plans to continue serving as the SLRC Committee Chair after he retires. However, he reiterated this is his last year as President of SCAMIT.

Four Action Items were noted:

1. Kelvin will reach out to Wai-Yin Kwan about her availability and interest going forward with a database project RFP.
2. Kelvin will investigate the creation of a SCAMIT SLRC Google Drive.
3. Erin offered to investigate the possibility of hosting multiple Zoom meetings simultaneously
4. Kelvin will send out a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.

LITERATURE CITED

Austin WC. 1985. *An Annotated Checklist of Marine Invertebrates in the Cold Temperate Northeast Pacific*, Vols. 1, 2 & 3. Khoyatan Marine Laboratory, Cowichan Bay, BC.
682pp.



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
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Kelvin Barwick (714)593-7475
Leslie Harris (213)763-3234
Megan Lilly (619)758-2336
Erin Oderlin (310)648-5477

kbarwick@ocsd.com
lharris@nhm.org
mlilly@sandiego.gov
erin.oderlin@lacity.org

The SCAMIT 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