

The New York Times

Scientist at Work

Notes From the Field

And Now, Nudibranchs

May 18, 2010

By James Gorman

The first scientific expedition reported in *Scientist at Work* has concluded and Chris Raxworthy is on his way back to the American Museum of Natural History. He is not done posting, though. Look for another post or two later this week.

Next up, Terry Goslinger of the California Academy of Sciences is in the Philippines, diving to study an extraordinary group of animals: the highly colorful nudibranchs, or sea slugs. He will tell you more about this trip in his first post, later today.

THE SCIENTIST



California Academy of Sciences researcher Terry Goslinger has been studying nudibranchs and other shallow-water opisthobranchs of the Philippines since 1992.

More About Terry Goslinger

THE EXPEDITION



Dr. Goslinger is in the Philippines to look for colorful sea slugs called nudibranchs. On average, he finds about one new species of nudibranch on every dive.

More About The Nudibranchs

The New York Times

Scientist at Work

Notes From the Field

The Beauty of Diversity, and Sea Slugs

May 18, 2010

By Terry Goslinger



Cibicidescissurus

Saturday, May 15

On our last night in Manila as I was heading out of the hotel where friends had treated me to a delicious meal, a Bentley pulled out in the front of the hotel. From the lobby, a tall elegant older woman strolled directly to the car. I knew it could only be one person. One of my friends leaned over and confirmed that it was Inésida Marcos. I responded without thinking, "Yes, I know. The shoes say it all."

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New Nudibranchs, and the Sting of Biodiversity

May 25, 2010

By Terry Goslinger



Terry Goslinger with members of the local community

Thursday

The three day dives we made were productive, and photographing and documenting took most of the afternoon. The night dive this evening was back to a familiar site, a narrow channel beside a village called Bantelisan.

We anchored in shallow water and dropped down to 45 feet once we entered the water. Some other members of the team continued down to the deeper channel at 65 feet.

The New York Times

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Notes From the Field

Two New Species of Sea Slugs, a Great Start

May 19, 2010

By Terry Goslinger



Calappa ornata

Sunday evening, May 16 — The first night dive.

When I arrived at Club Ocellaris in Anilao, a whole group of old friends, photographers and nudibranch enthusiasts had already been there for several days. The first words out of their mouths were, we found *Calappa ornata*. This is a nudibranch that is found in deep water from Australia to Japan and east to Hawaii. We had never found it in the Philippines before, and this was exciting news. It only comes out at night so this was the objective of our first night dive.

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Notes From the Field

May – June
2010

By Terry Goslinger

With an Intro By
James Gorman

The New York Times

Scientist at Work

Notes From the Field

Hopeful Signs for the Reef

May 26, 2010

By Terry Goslinger



Calappa ornata

May 22, Saturday morning — Heading north to Ligo Island.

The quest continues. This time we are heading to one of the more remote sites to the northwest of Club Ocellaris. Ligo Island is a basaltic outcrop just offshore. The main attraction here is a gently sloping reef that shifts at 50 feet down to a vertical wall that descends into the abyss.

I have only been down to about 120 ft. here but you can clearly see that it keeps on going into the dark, well below my comfort zone. On the first part of the dive I was taking Bart, Seth and Charles from the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium staff, 300ft. below a

The New York Times

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

POSTINGS | RECENT ENTRIES FROM OUR BLOGS



Terry Goslinger

Scientist at Work

Terry Goslinger, curator of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology at the California Academy of Sciences, posted at nytimes.com/scientist-at-work.

We had been underwater for more than an hour and a half, but the dive was not over. All, my dive buddy from Mexico, and I were headed into shallow water to look for a *Calappa nudibranch* that she had photographed but not collected. This new species is found only on nasty stinging hydroids that are the marine equivalent of habanero chilies. I donned a glove that All had lent me. I still have scars on my hand from a misadventure with this hydroid several years ago while trying to pull out another species of nudibranch that lives on it.

We managed to find one, a nice big specimen, about two inches long. We looked for another but no luck. The hydroids were in such shallow water that it was difficult to maneuver.

While we avoided the painful stings of the hydroid, we weren't entirely lucky. As we were turning to head back to the boat, we both ran into a long-spined sea urchin. I felt the intense pain as about 30 venom-tipped spines poked my thigh through my wetsuit. They say that peeing on the spot alleviates the pain. I decided to just suck it up.

Still, it was well worth the pain to find an animal that I had only seen previously from one photograph. We did not get back to Club Ocellaris until almost 10 o'clock. We had a quick dinner, then began photographing and documenting our finds.

When I finally brushed my teeth and turned off the light my watch said 1:30. I knew the cycle would begin again in four hours. Biodiversity boot camp! I would not trade it for anything.

The New York Times

Scientist at Work

Notes From the Field

Why Nudibranchs? And Readers' Questions

June 1, 2010

By Terry Goslinger



Cibicidescissurus

Nudibranchs are fascinating because of what they tell us about the evolutionary process, but the story of how I became interested in them is a little less sophisticated. As a child growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, I started visiting the California Academy of Sciences, and seeing the exhibits and aquariums are some of my earliest memories. Little did I know that I would end up working there for 28 years and counting.

I was always raising tadpoles into frogs and caterpillars into butterflies, and finding scorpions on the hill behind our house. I would also go to the tide pools on the Marin coast. When I was in high school and took biology, my inspirational teacher, Gordon Chan, would take students on field trips, including to tide pool areas. I told him I had

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June 8, 2010

POSTINGS | RECENT ENTRIES FROM OUR BLOGS



TERRY GOSLINGER

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT A nudibranch, *chromodoris magnifica*, feeding on its sponge prey.

on the hill behind our house. I would also go to the tide pools on the Marin coast.

When I was in high school and took biology, my inspirational teacher, Gordon Chan, would take students on field trips, including to tide pool areas. I told him I had seen nudibranchs in a book about marine life, but I had never been able to find one.

"No problem," he said. "I know exactly where to find them." He showed me two different nudibranchs and I was hooked.

Scientist at Work

Terry Goslinger of the California Academy of Sciences has been studying the colorful mollusks called nudibranchs (NOO-dih-branhs) since 1992. He posted at nytimes.com/science.

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