

## The Nudibranchs of the Salish Sea

Nudibranchs (Opisthobranchs) are mollusks that, until recently, only the most dedicated shellers have been interested in collecting or studying, since only a small number of species possess a shell of any kind. Specimens would need to be preserved in alcohol and this makes them lose their color and alters other features needed to identify them. It has not been until digital underwater cameras have become very affordable, that a more thorough study and documentation of these beautiful and unique animals has become possible.

True nudibranchs (Gastropoda: Opisthobranchia: Nudibranchia) are Karin Fletcher's passion, and she has elected to seek out and document all the species that are known to occur in our area. She photographs each species she comes across and then records the location and time of year.

Since nudibranchs are seasonal, locating them can often take a very long time. As luck would have it, and as if to illustrate just how difficult some species are to find, one discovery happened for Karin on a dive she did just two days after the January meeting. It was in the sandy shallows south of her house where she spotted a 7mm *Cumanotus fernaldi* Thompson & Brown, 1984, a species that had eluded her. She was overjoyed when she made the find since the dive that day just happened to be her 700th.

Several members expressed an interest in a copy of Karin's list of nudibranchs that live in the Salish Sea, and she has kindly allowed for it to be printed here. Also included are photos of some of her favorite finds. г. н.

Scientific Name	Common name		
1. <i>Acanthodoris brunnea</i>	Brown Nudibranch	23. <b><i>Cumanotus fernaldi</i></b>	Fernald's Aeolid
2. <i>Acanthodoris hudsoni</i>	Hudson's Dorid	24. <i>Cumanotus</i> sp 1	Burrowing Aeolid
3. <i>Acanthodoris lutea</i>	Sandalwood Dorid	25. <i>Cuthona albocrusta</i>	White-crowned Aeolid
4. <i>Acanthodoris nanaimoensis</i>	Nanaimo Nudibranch	26. <i>Cuthona cocoachroma</i>	Brown Aeolid
5. <i>Acanthodoris pilosa</i>	Pilose Doris		
6. <i>Adalaria evicta</i> Millen, 2006	previously <i>Adalaria</i> sp. 1		
6. <i>Adalaria jannea</i>	Janna's <i>Adalaria</i>		
7. <i>Adalaria proxima</i>	White <i>Adalaria</i>		
8. <i>Aegires albopunctatus</i>	Salt and Pepper Nudibranch		
10. <i>Aeolidia papillosa</i>	Shag Rug Nudibranch		
11. <i>Akiodoris salacia</i>	<i>Akiodoris</i> <i>Salacia</i>		
12. <i>Aldisa albomarginata</i>	White-rimmed Nudibranch		
13. <i>Aldisa cooperi</i>	Cooper's Dorid		
14. <i>Aldisa tara</i>	Tara's Dorid		
15. <b><i>Ancula gibbosa</i></b>	Pacific <i>Ancula</i>		



**15** *Ancula gibbosa* (Risso, 1818) 12mm

16. <i>Armina californica</i>	Striped Nudibranch
17. <i>Cadlina flavomaculata</i>	Yellow-spotted <i>Cadlina</i>
18. <i>Cadlina luteomarginata</i>	Yellow-rimmed Nudibranch
19. <i>Cadlina modesta</i>	Modest <i>Cadlina</i>
20. <i>Catriona columbiana</i>	British Columbia Aeolid
21. <i>Corambe pacifica</i>	Frost Spot Nudibranch
22. <i>Corambe steinbergae</i>	Cryptic Nudibranch



**23** *Cumanotus fernaldi* Thompson & Brown, 1984 7mm

27. <i>Cuthona concinna</i>	Neat Aeolid
28. <i>Cuthona divae</i>	Rose-pink <i>Cuthona</i>
29. <b><i>Cuthona flavovulta</i></b>	Yellow-headed Aeolid
30. <i>Cuthona fulgens</i>	Shiny Aeolid
31. <i>Cuthona punicea</i>	Pomegranate Aeolid



**29** *Cuthona flavovulta* (MacFarland, 1966) 10mm



**35** *Dendronotus albus* MacFarland, 1966 25mm

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 32. <i>Cuthona pustulata</i>         | Pustulate Aeolid          |
| 33. <i>Cuthona viridis</i>           | Green Aeolid              |
| 34. <i>Dendronotus albopunctatus</i> | White-spotted Dendronotid |
| 35. <b><i>Dendronotus albus</i></b>  | White Dendronotid         |
| 36. <i>Dendronotus dalli</i>         | Dall's Dendronotid        |



**45** *Dirona pellucida* Volodchenko, 1941 50mm

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| 37. <i>Dendronotus iris</i>            | Giant Nudibranch           |
| 38. <i>Dendronotus rufus</i>           | Red Dendronotid            |
| 39. <i>Dendronotus</i> sp 1            | Light Speckled Dendronotid |
| 40. <i>Dendronotus subramosus</i>      | Stubby Dendronotus         |
| 41. <i>Dendronotus venustus</i>        | Bushy-backed Nudibranch    |
| 42. <i>Diaphorodoris lirulatocauda</i> | Porcupine Dorid            |
| 43. <i>Dialula sandiegensis</i>        | Leopard Dorid              |
| 44. <i>Dirona albolineata</i>          | Frosted Nudibranch         |
| 45. <b><i>Dirona pellucida</i></b>     | Golden Dirona              |
| 46. <i>Doriopsilla albopunctata</i>    | White-spotted Sea Goddess  |
| 47. <i>Doris montereyensis</i>         | Monterey Sea Lemon         |
| 48. <i>Doris odhneri</i>               | White Nudibranch           |
| 49. <i>Doto amyra</i>                  | Orange Doto                |
| 50. <i>Doto columbiana</i>             | British Columbia Doto      |
| 51. <i>Doto kya</i>                    | Seal Doto                  |

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| 52. <i>Eubranchus rupium</i>       | Rocky Aeolid                       |
| 53. <i>Eubranchus rustyus</i>      | Rustic Aeolid                      |
| 54. <i>Eubranchus sanjuanensis</i> | San Juan Aeolid                    |
| 55. <i>Fiona pinnata</i>           | Pelagic Nudibranch                 |
| 56. <i>Flabellina amabilis</i>     | Charming Neolid                    |
| 57. <i>Flabellina iodinea</i>      | Spanish Shawl                      |
| 58. <i>Flabellina islandica</i>    | Island Aeolid                      |
| 59. <i>Flabellina japonica</i>     | Pearly Nudibranch                  |
| 60. <i>Flabellina pricei</i>       | Price's Aeolid                     |
| 61. <i>Flabellina</i> sp 2         | Flabellina sp 2                    |
| 62. <i>Flabellina trilineata</i>   | Three-lined Nudibranch             |
| 63. <i>Flabellina trophina</i>     | Red Flabellina                     |
| 64. <i>Flabellina verrucosa</i>    | Red-gilled Nudibranch              |
| 65. <i>Geitodoris heathi</i>       | Heath's Dorid                      |
| 66. <i>Hallaxa chani</i>           | Chan's Dorid                       |
| 67. <i>Hermisenda crassicornis</i> | Opalescent Nudibranch              |
| 68. <i>Janolus fuscus</i>          | White-and-orange-tipped Nudibranch |
| 69. <i>Janolus</i> sp 2            | Frosty-tipped Nudibranch           |
| 70. <i>Limacia cockerelli</i>      | Cockerell's Nudibranch             |
| 71. <i>Loy thompsoni</i>           | Thompson's Corambid                |
| 72. <i>Melibe leonina</i>          | Hooded Nudibranch                  |
| 73. <i>Okenia vancouverensis</i>   | Vancouver's Okenia                 |
| 74. <i>Onchidoris bilamellata</i>  | Barnacle-eating Nudibranch         |
| 75. <i>Onchidoris muricata</i>     | Fuzzy Onchidoris                   |
| 76. <b><i>Palio dubia</i></b>      | Banded Polycera                    |
| 77. <i>Peltodoris lentiginosa</i>  | Freckled Pale Sea Lemon            |
| 78. <i>Peltodoris nobilis</i>      | Noble Sea Lemon                    |
| 79. <i>Polycera atra</i>           | Sorcerer's Nudibranch              |
| 80. <i>Polycera tricolor</i>       | Three-colored Polycera             |
| 81. <i>Rostanga pulchra</i>        | Red sponge Nudibranch              |
| 82. <i>Tochuina tetraquetra</i>    | Orange-peel Nudibranch             |
| 83. <i>Triopha catalinae</i>       | Clown Nudibranch                   |
| 84. <i>Triopha maculata</i>        | Spotted Triopha                    |
| 85. <i>Tritonia diomedea</i>       | Pink Tritonia                      |
| 86. <i>Tritonia festiva</i>        | Diamondback Nudibranch             |



**76** *Palio dubia* (M. Sars, 1829) 10mm

**Note:** Many of the species have multiple common names so other references may vary in that respect.