Thanks to Tom Rice for the following list of opisthobranch stamps:
Afars & Issas (now called Republic of Djibouti):#465, *Glossodoris* sp. (1977), 70 fr.
Haiti: #669, *Micromelo undata* (1973) 5¢; #671, *Cyerce cristallina* (1973) 25¢
Lundy: *Caloria maculata* (1978) 10p.
Mauririus: *Hexabranchus marginatus* (1969) #349, 40¢
New Caledonia: #309, *Glaucus marinus* (1959) 10fr.;#C37, *Calliphylla orientalis* (1969) 37fr.;#C112, *Hydatina physis (1974)* 32fr.
Paupua New Guinea: 4 1978 issues showing *Roboastra arika, Chromodoris fidelis, Flavellina macassarana* and *Chromodoris trimarginata* in values of 10, 15, 35 and 40t respectively.
Singapore: #267, *Amplustrum amplustre* (1977) 20¢.

Eveline Marcus writes that she is expecting the Rehders from the Smithsonian to visit in Brazil and later, other visitors. Her summer trip for this year will again leave out California.

Speaking of trips: We live about 30 minutes from the San Francisco International Airport and would love to hear from any of you who are travelling through. Please let us know even if it is only a short stop between planes. I won't be able to do any foreign travelling for quite a while so please don't miss the opportunity to say hello if you get to California.

I still have microfiche available for many, many opisthobranch and general molluscan works. Most of the fiche are 24x reduction and contain 98 pages when full. Most are also negative appearing and have a black background with clear characters for optimum viewing and printing. Paper copies of any paper I have are available for $.35 per page as I have to pay that much to have them done commercially. I hope to lower this cost but that will have to wait until the volume of requests justifies the purchase of a good reader/printer. I will also have to spend about $2,000.00 more to get the text editing set-up computerized. Quite a few original papers and books are available. If you desire prices on any of these items you need only to send a request with the ON citation numbers.

Dr. Ruth Rosin has moved. Her new address is: 126 W. 83rd. Street, New York, NY 10024.

Chris Kitting is now Dr. Christopher Kitting since he has received his Ph.D. from Hopkins (Stanford). Chris is working as a research associate until March and will then probably go to U.C. Santa Barbara as a research associate. Congratulations Dr. Kitting!

The 1979 meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists will be held in conjunction with the American Malacological Union and the Coastal Bend Shell Club, from August 5-11 at Corpus Christi, Texas. The call for papers should go out around April 1, 1979. If you are planning to attend and present a paper, please let me know. I would like to see a coordinated group of opisthobranch papers if possible.

James T. Carlton has moved. His new address is: Department of Biology, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543.

The Bay Area Malacologists meeting, held January 27, 1979, was well worth attending. Approximately 40 people attended and discussed a variety of subjects. Dr. James Nybakken talked about two opisthobranch publications which should be out this year. One will be published by R. Tucker Abbott and one by the California Academy of Sciences. If any of the often-heralded "Color California Opisthobranchs" books is actually published and distributed, it will be cause for shouting!

Ian Loch and Bill Rudman are still at the Australian Museum. Bill is spending time getting to know the local fauna.

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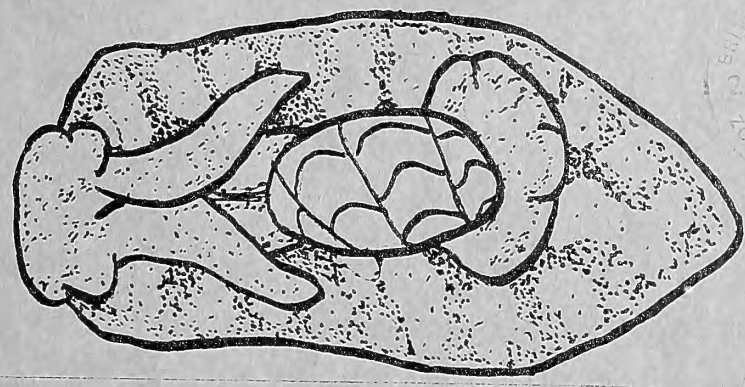

Illustration at right:
Micromelo guamensis
(Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)
Illustration by
P.J. Hoff.

- -

From Kerry B. Clark: "In clarification of an earlier note [ON XI(2): 3-4] on tank culture, we discovered that we actually had two species of *Oxynoe* living in our culture systems. *O. antillarum* has type 1 development and large egg masses, while the second species has very extended intracapsular development and small inconspicuous egg masses. Kathe Jensen is preparing a description of the new species. This explains why *Oxynoe* appeared to be developing in our tanks, as the new species can be cultured very easily (as long as we can supply *Caulerpa*).

We are continuing our identification of diets of Florida Ascoglossa, which should help clarify feeding trends within the order, and also help workers locate specimens. Almost invariably, if the food can be located, the animal can be collected the holding the alga in aquariums for several days, after which the juveniles grow to visible size. The adults can also be collected by snorkeling, grabbing handfuls of algae and shaking vigorously underwater. These techniques are necessary to collect sufficient numbers for lab work, because tropical populations have very low densities relative to those of temperate climates. Nearly every siphonalean alga in Florida supports one or more species of ascoglossan, though often seasonally. We have collected nearly all reported species of Florida Ascoglossa in this way, with some apparently new species and several interesting range extensions, including *Costasiella lilianae, Mourgona germaineae,* and *Caliphylla mediterranea*. Many species appear to be quite havitat-specific, and we have collected these from only a few localities in Florida despite relatively widespread occurrence of the algal food. Perhaps some of these anomalies are due to currents, but we often find that a distance of a hundred meters may make a tremendous difference in density of a population, even though conditions appear quite similar.

I have three papers in press - one in Baruch symposium volume, and two in the December JOURNAL OF MOLLUSCAN STUDIES. Two are on plastid symbiosis and one on developmental patterns."

From James T. Carlton: "Greetings!, and congratulations on seeing the Opisthobranch Newsletter through its first ten years! I still remember the day when the first issue (and covering sheet) arrived on our desks at the California Academy of Sciences. Of all the other newsletters -- for barnacles, amphipods, polychaetes, echinoderms, *Corbicula*, and many others -- the ON is surely one of the, if not the, oldest and most continuous of them all.

Let me comment on my old friend Dave Behrens' comments on the matter of nomenclatural changes. There are of course two general types of such changes: 'legal' changes necessitated by ICZN rules (matters of priority, homonomy, etc.), and somewhat more 'subjective' changes, based on the opinions of one worker or another as to the generic placement of a species, as to the synonymy of two or more species, etc. It is the latter that most often give the most trouble: Worker A thinks species X and Y are the same, but Worker B thinks species X and Y are not only quite distinct but should perhaps be in different genera, leaving Worker C not knowing which name or names to use. Only time and further data can resolve such

CARLTON - CONTINUED FROM PRECEEDING PAGE:
problems, and it may be one year or 50 years before one opinion or another is finally accepted. David comments that 'A confusing point is that no one seems to be using the new names.' Let us examine this problem. First, of course, the new names are used by those who propose them (presumably). We can then consider the rest of the workers in the field concerned, whether these are opisthobranch workers, barnacle workers, polychaete sorts, etc. Some of these will quickly adopt the new names, others will hedge a while, while others will disagree with the new names (unless, again presumably, the changes were dictated by ICZN rules). Now we can consider the greater number of biologists, zoologists, natural historians, and many others who are outside of the particular field. It is here, more than any where else, that we find frustration, perplexity, confusion, disbelief, and many other responses to changes of names of common, well known species, and a naturally conservative response to continue use of the 'older' (= improper ?) name. Who, indeed, will willingly abandon *Hermissenda* (now *Phidiana*)? How do we explain that dear old *Navanax* has run the gamut from *Chelidonura* to *Aglaja*?, and that some of our Aglajas now are *Melanoclamys*? For those who know the classic worm *Mercierella*, we are now to call it *Ficopmatus; Balanus tintinabulum californicus* is now *Megabalanus californicus*, and *Balanus cariosus* is now *Semibalanus cariosus*; the seaspider (pycnogonid) so common in some Californian shallow waters, long known as *Halosoma viridintestinale*, is now *Anoplodactylus viridintestinalis*. And, to return to gastropods, *Littorina planaxis* Must now be *Littorina keenae; Mitrella carinata* is now *Alia carinata*, and on the name changes go. And so are we to jump in and use all of the new names the moment we learn of them? Which are changes due to matters of priority, homonomy, or synonymy; which are changes because a subgenus has been elevated to a genus; which are changes because an old generic name must be abandoned for any of many reasons? To the general zoologist, it is all the same: the name has changed, the taxonomists have been at work, and the longer one can hold onto the older name, the better. (It is of interest to note that negative reactions to name changes are most pronounced when common and well-known species are involved, and are increasingly less pronounced when increasingly obscure species are concerned). In general, however, I believe we can say that new names are adopted albeit in many cases slowly, and that the proposal of a new name carries with it no time-adoption criteria or requirements. David remarks, 'Good old names are falling like dead flies,' but we must remember that exactly the same thing could have been said by a biologist in 1879, and that our 'good old names' were, in very many cases, the same 'new names' that biologists of generations ago may have objected to also!

I must say that I am not sure that an 'opinion poll' is what we really need, as opinion polls or committee decisions certainly cannot tell us which names are 'correct,' and we do want to avoid the 'toothpaste tally' syndrome: 4 out of 5 (doctors, dentists, opisthobranch workers) prefer.... Certainly a section of the ON devoted to pointing out name changes would be useful, and solid discussions on individual problems would be welcome, but to actually know that 6 workers prefer one name, and 4 another, might not tell us too much, especially as the expertise and experience of these workers will vary greatly.

I could go on for some length, as I have given some considerable thought over the years to the subjectivity and ephemerality of names, and what it all mus mean. I'll be interested in reading other responses to Dave's comments." - Jim Carleton

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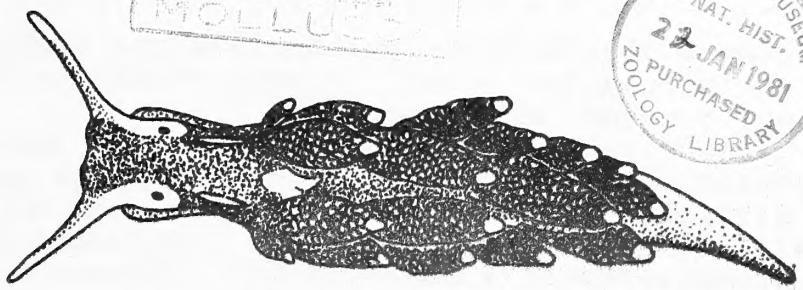

Illustration at right:
Calliopoea bellula
Orbigny, 1837 Drawing by J.A. Ortea

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I am forced to increase subscription rates to the OPISTHOBRANCH NEWSLETTER. The postal ratès are due to rise again in the near future. Effective immediately, all foreign subscription rates will increase by five dollars per calendar year. U.S. and Canadian rates will remain the same. U.S. individual subscriptions will be $10.00 per year. U.S. institutional rates will be $12.50 per year. Foreign individual subscriptions will be $15.00 per year and foreign institutional subscriptions will be $17.50 per year. Back volmes will increase to $7.50 per volume. Microfiche will be $2.50 per volume and are available through the 1977 volume. Subscriptions and back volume requests should be made payable to Steven J. Long, 792 Laurie Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050, and be paid in U.S. funds.

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ARTICLES:

ON THE IDEAL TECHNIQUE FOR CLASSIFYING OPISTHOBRANCHIA.

Eveline du Bois-Reymond Marcus.

Systematics is the basis for other work with animals: ecology, physiology, pharmacology must know the species they are dealing with. Empty shells are often not sufficiently characteristic to determine even the family they belong to. Specimens of any kind, if they do not fit into a previous description, should be treated as new and given a working name, so that later research can confirm their status or place them in a synonymy.

Collecting in the littoral zone: Turn stones: the photophobic slugs hide at daytime. Replace stones carefully to original position. Algae are observed, covered with water, in a flat dish, or in a bucket covered with a black cloth; many animals come the surface. In algae kept in the aquarium for some weeks, their inhabitants often grow rapidly. Sand and mud are sieved with a kitchen sieve with 1-1.5 mm meshes. The living animals are picked out, and also dead shells for observing the variation. Interstitial fauna creeps out of the sand heaped up on one side of an inclined dish filled with water to the lower border of the sand. One can also put anaesthetic into the water and whirl the animals out. The fauna of panels hung into the sea for some weeks or more, often includes opisthobranchs. Planktotonic species are collected with the plankton net. Diving and dredging are for species from deeper water. Note the substratum and food (Algae, hydroids, etc.)

Make a thorough description of the specimens not immediately recognized and a color photograph or drawing with colored pencils from the back and from the right side, with tentacles, rhinophores, gills, cerata, genital, and anal openings. The veins running to the heart are specific in some species of *Elysia*.