

# Marine Biology



## News

Member Nick Jouault and Luo Wagstaffe both had articles published in the latest edition of Mollusc World. Unfortunately there is no online link we can share, but a copy will be available to see at the next members meeting.

Congratulations to you both!

### Rare sea slug *Atagema gibba* recorded at Les Écréhous, Jersey

Nicolas Jouault

*coarilescens* in August 2022, and the small grey-coloured *gibba* on the same rock. These records can be viewed on the section's page of iNaturalist at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/societe-jersiaise-marine-biology-section>.

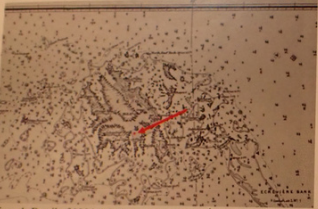


Figure 1: Detail of 1904 Admiralty chart of Les Écréhous reef showing site of *Atagema gibba* record. Soundings in fathoms.







Figure 3: *Atagema gibba* from above, Les Écréhous.



### Jersey, the place of sun, sea and summer storms

Luo Wagstaffe

I was looking forward to exploring the eastern coast of Jersey during the big spring tides at the beginning of August (rare sunbathers, very low tides and little wind). When I little did expect to be hammering down the hatches against waves to reach and attempt full waterproofer gear before heading to sea this morning.

In a small (9 x 5 miles (14.4 x 8.0 km)) island like Jersey, a legend of the Channel Islands, one might expect that a subject is not far away or takes too long to get to, but factors in immediate aspect of tides, currents, distance down some two-way lanes, and a relatively easy journey, comes in frustrating and stressful events.



So, the prospect of spending a few hours alone at the sea exploring and looking for molluscs the morning that I left to do was not enough to make me relax, but rather to allow having to reverse back up a winding, like several miles to my garage, the only option to know how to drive was to that could continue to the shore.

So I have been able to describe it, other than to say that it is showing a beauty and tipping buckets as I climbed out of the sea and I got soaked getting my waterproof and equipment on. At least it wasn't cold, I thought to myself, the sea did show. For a while at least, and it even, need raising for a bit too.

In the course of several days, I returned and slowly aligned up the coast from the end of the pier at Garry to the slip at Grand Maison in St Catherine's Bay, at least to the sea where access wasn't blocked either by rockwork or tide, which on all days was held up by the south-westerly associated with low atmospheric pressure, meaning that tide did not get out as far as it might have if the conditions had been less windy and the air pressure was higher.

I returned to some of my favourite spots, where I had previously found *Arctonotus pectiniferus* (Shapley, 1972) and *Arctonotus pectinifer* (Carter, 1863), but found neither. What I did find, however, was a plethora of, among other things, *Chthamalus corallina* (Audouin & Milne Edwards, 1832) (Figure 1), predominantly on steep, eastern-facing surfaces of rocks that had just been exposed by the falling tide, on the south-east coast from La Grande Maison (pier) to St Catherine's Bay southwards to Anseport Bay. These polychaete sea slugs are small enough to be overlooked, but once spotted they appear in abundance as they spread out to find an over-algae and bivalves from the lower to mid-shore. As the tide returns, they retreat to sheltered crevices and cracks and unless a pocket of air they create by forming a cavity with their mantle to sustain them until the tide retreats again.

*Doris verticalis* Lilljeström, 1798 (Figure 4-7) (who doesn't have a warty dorsal), which I first spotted at lighted night was around the end of the pier below the Castle at Garry, was tucked up, inactive, on mostly western-facing surfaces under rock overhangs and cracks in the rock outcrops that had just been exposed at the tide fall just the mid-shore. I found more individuals further to the east towards Anseport Bay. All were near patches of orange sponges (*Artemesia luteo-purpurea* (Montagu, 1818), which they like to feed on. I found a solitary *Balanus pulchellus* (Figure 8), high up on an eastern-facing rock wall of a dock, damp and deep crevice in the mid-shore shore, on the south-western rock of Anseport Bay near a patch of red sponges, *Ophidiastrea papillosa* (Bosc, 1864). All of these made being soaked and exhausted from being blasted by the wind worthwhile.

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## Interesting finds: December

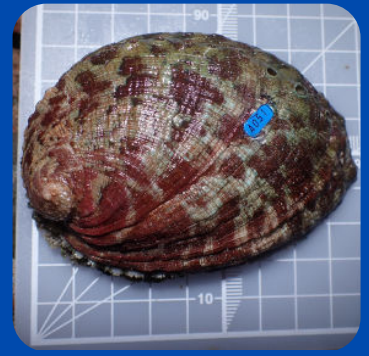
The weather may not be as great as it has been but our members are still getting out and about finding lots of interesting species.



Conger eel  
*Conger conger*



*Urticina felina*  
Dahlia anemone



*Haliotis tuberculata*  
Ormer



*Denndrodoris limbata*



Sea urchin



*Doris pseudoargus*  
Sea lemon

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## Coming up

### Section meetings

Marine Biology  
Section meeting  
Date: 4th January  
Time: 7.30pm

Location: Société Jersiaise,  
7 Pier Road

Marine Biology  
Section meeting  
Date: 1st February  
Time: 7.30pm

Location: Société Jersiaise  
7 Pier Road

**The date and location of the next field discovery session is yet to be confirmed.  
Please keep an eye on the emails and facebook for information.**

*Images courtesy of Nicolas Jouault, Lou Wagstaffe, Chris Isaacs and Rebecca Kinnear*

<https://www.societe.je/our-sections/marine-biology/>  
Facebook: Societe Jersiaise marine Biology Section