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ON THE PROBABLE PRESENCE OF *CHROMODORIS QUADRICOLOR*
QUADRICOLOR (MOLLUSCA: NUDIBRANCHIA) IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

Riassunto:

Sulla probabile presenza di *Chromodoris quadricolor quadricolor* nelle acque mediterranee.

Viene segnalata la probabile presenza di *Chromodoris quadricolor quadricolor*, un doridaceo ad ampia distribuzione indopacifica, nelle acque del Mar Ligure (Capo Mortola, Imperia).

In April 1982, Dr. L. Capelli, a good underwater photographer took two photo of an unusual doridacean at 30 m depth near Capo Mortola (Imperia, Ligurian Sea) in a place close to several submarine springs.

The specimen, about 20 mm long, can be referred to the species *Chromodoris quadricolor quadricolor* (RUPPELL & LEUCKART, 1828) described from the Red Sea (Tor, Egypt).

This nudibranch is well distributed from the East African coast (MARCUS & MARCUS, 1959) to the Australian area (THOMPSON, 1972), but it was never seen in Mediterranean waters.

This species presents some geographical and colour varieties (ENGEL & NIJSSEN-MEYER, 1964; BURN, 1968) and for this reason the trinomial name is used.

The specimen, photographed along the Ligurian coast, seems to be very close, as to colour pattern, to the description given by ENGEL & VAN EEKEN (1962) for a Gulf of Aqaba specimen.

Obviously this presence must be confirmed, but the record emphasizes the specific richness of the Mediterranean Opisthobranch fauna, recently increased by several tropical species which BARASH & DANIN (1982), MIENIS (1983), PERRONE (1985) and THOMPSON (1985) reported.

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