50 Shades of Red: the red-reticulate group of *Goniobranchus* (Heterobranchia: Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae)

Lynn J. Bonomo 1,2, Giun Yee Soong 3, James D. Reimer 3,4 & Terrence M. Gosliner 2

Email: lbonomo@calacademy.org

The Chromodorididae family tree has been refined in recent years via molecular phylogenetic analyses which have clarified many relationships between taxa. The genus *Goniobranchus* is one clade within Chromodorididae that was previously included within the genus *Chromodoris*. However, based on recent molecular phylogenetic results, *Chromodoris* was determined to be non-monophyletic and *Goniobranchus* was resurrected. In this study, we performed molecular and morphological analyses to resolve the internal relationships among *Goniobranchus* species, specifically the red-reticulate species complex of three previously described species, *Goniobranchus tinctorius*, *G. reticulatus*, and *G. alderi*, which display a red network of lines over a white mantle and are widely distributed across the Indo-Pacific Ocean. We sequenced two mitochondrial genes (COI and 16S) and one nuclear gene (H3) for 339 *Goniobranchus* specimens, and in our phylogenetic analyses the red-reticulate species group emerged as a monophyly. This current work has indicated there are at least eleven distinct species within this species complex, including the only three previously described species and another described species, *G. splendidus*, was added to this clade. The molecular data and the morphological differences among species will be discussed, and we present a possible way forward to clarify the taxonomy of the red-reticulate species complex.

Center for Comparative Genomics, Institute for Biodiversity Science and Sustainability, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA, USA

² Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology, Institute for Biodiversity Science and Sustainability, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA, USA

Molecular Invertebrate Systematics and Ecology Laboratory, Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan

⁴ Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan