

PLATYHELMINTH CARE

PURPOSE: To describe methods of care for flatworms.

POLICY: To provide optimum care for all animals.

RESPONSIBILITY: Collector and user of the animals. If these are not the same person, the user takes over responsibility of the animals as soon as the animals have arrived on station.

PROCEDURE: There are many flatworm species found around BMSC. The following two are the most common.

Species:	Flatworm	<i>Notoplana sanguinea</i>
	Giant Flatworm	<i>Kaburakia excelsa</i>

Identification: Refer to Eugene N. Kozloff 's book, "Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast" for in depth descriptions of individual specimens.

Notoplana sanguinea: These turbellarians are in the Order Polycladida, they have a distinctive dark red saddlepatch on the central part of the dorsal surface. They are about 1 to 3cm long.

Kaburakia excelsa: These are also turbellarians of the Order Polycladida. They are mottled brown in colour and up to 10cm in length.

Sites: These worms cling to the undersides of rocks in the intertidal and found amongst mussel clumps. They can also be found on float, docks, and pilings.

Methods: These can be gently picked up by hand (be careful no to tear the thin dermis) or scooped up in a small plastic pot.

Holding: These should be held in continually flowing seawater in any small container.

Feeding: Turbellarians are predators and scavengers, a few are herbivores or parasites. Feed these worms on small invertebrates as well as dead bodies of animals. They will consume whole small chunks of mussel or chopped fish.

Animal Return: Return the animal to the site of its collection.

DAILY ACTIVITIES:

1. Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate.
2. Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked.
3. Check for and remove and dead animals.
4. Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms.
5. Check for and remove and foreign organisms.