

SCAMIT Code: AHF 37

Date Examined: October 16, 1985
Voucher By: Susan Williams (AHF)

Literature: Annenkova, 1937
Fauchald, 1977
Hartman, 1967
Hartman, 1969
Uschakov, 1955

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Palae present, of unusual form, being distally oblique (Figure 2).
2. Thorax with 15 setigers in addition to the palae; first notosetal fascicle minute, easily overlooked. Thoracic uncingers number 12.
3. Branchiae 3 pairs, inserted in a transverse row.
4. Smooth dorsal ridge at setiger 3 (Figure 1).

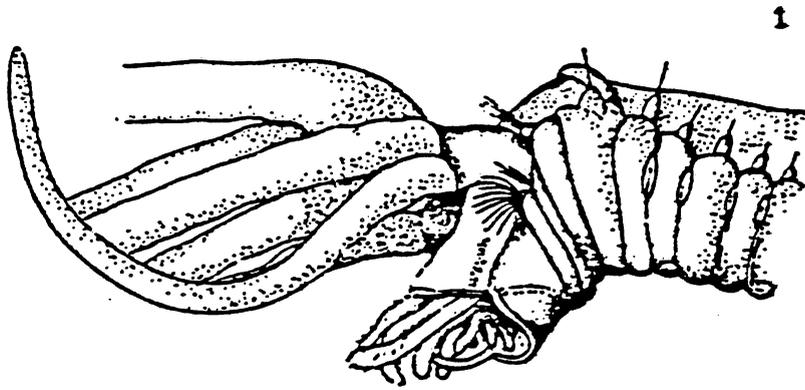
Related Species and Differences:

Melinnampharete eoa - see below.

Additional Remarks:

1. Hartman (1969) erroneously described M. gracilis with 14 thoracic setigers plus palae. Examination of the type material revealed a small fascicle of fine setae immediately following the palae.
2. This species will key to Eusamythella (Hartman, 1967) using Fauchald, 1977. The distinction between Eusamythella and Melinnampharete is based on number of thoracic setigers (15 vs 14). However, this is invalid, as Melinnampharete is described with 15, in addition to the palae (Annenkova, 1937). There are no appreciable differences between the two genera and they are most likely synonymous.
3. It is also quite likely that M. eoa Annenkova and M. gracilis Hartman are identical. Hartman (1969) states that M. eoa differs from M. gracilis in having 17 thoracic setigers, instead of 14. However, both species have 15 thoracic setigers (plus palae); Annenkova describes 17 thoracic segments, of which 15 bear notosetae. Also, Annenkova notes that 'The dorsal podial process of the third segment are hardly noticeable'. This fits with the situation in M. gracilis. Pending publication of the synonymy, Melinnampharete gracilis should be used for California specimens.

Distribution: Minimal, California to western Mexico, in basin depths.



Figures 1 and 2 from Uschakov, 1955 (M. eoa)



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