



Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists

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SCAMIT Newsletter

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SUBJECT: Next meeting to be announced
GUEST SPEAKER:
DATE:
TIME:
LOCATION:



Malmgreniella sanpedroensis Pettibone 1993
Dorsal view - anterior elytra removed
Point Loma Outfall, PLOO A-16 rep. 2
10Oct97 200ft. City of San Diego
Image by R. Rowe

(Below are the minutes from the September meeting; they have reappeared after an extended vacation. Enjoy.
- M. Lilly)

SEPTEMBER 2003 MINUTES

The meeting was held in the Collections Room at the Los Angeles County Museum. Problematic polychaetes that we will be encountering in the Bight '03 samples were discussed.

First, Rick Rowe addressed the topic of *Malmgreniella*. Rick had prepared color identification sheets for most species we encountered during the Bight '98 project. Since then, he has collected more color images and will prepare updated identification sheets. Due to the variation in several characters within different species of *Malmgreniella*, Rick found color identification sheets to be more useful than a key.

The genus *Malmgreniella* can have either transverse or longitudinal spinule rows, although all of the species reported from California were previously described with longitudinal rows. A small patch of microtubercles is present near elytra scars, and the cephalic peaks are truncate. Rick is working on a table including quantitative morphometrics of several species of *Malmgreniella*. The table will compare length/width ratios of primary and secondary teeth on the neurosetae.

The first species discussed was *M. sanpedroensis*. It is distinguished by an abundance of red pigment which is found on the supraacicular lobes, dorsal cirri, elytra, and ventrum. The distal neurosetal spinule bracts do not approach the base of the secondary tooth, which is relatively long.

M. scriptoria is another species we may encounter. It is distinguished by white "pencil markings" on the elytra as illustrated (3.20B) in Ruff 1995. This species tends to be found at deeper stations. There are reddish brown spots concentrated in a triangle usually on the posterior of the prostomium. It has short, round supraacicular lobes. Some specimens of *M. scriptoria* have been found with transverse rows of spinules on the notosetae, but most have only longitudinal rows.

Next, Rick discussed a couple of cirratulid species. *Aphelochaeta petersenae* has a pronounced unstained ocular area and no dorsal staining on the posterior of the prostomium. We agreed that what we often call *A. petersenae* (Rick's identification sheet of 17 March 1998) is the provisional, *Aphelochaeta* sp LA1 of Brantley 1999. The next species Rick discussed was *Chaetozone* sp SD2 fide Rowe 1996. He handed out a new color identification sheet. Some *Chaetozone* specimens do not uptake stain easily and require extra staining time. In *C.* sp SD2 the first branchiae are inserted lateral to the dorsal tentacles and slightly anterior to the first setal fascicle. The prostomium stains darkly while its distal tip remains unstained. The shape

of the pygidium is scoop-like, and there are broad dorsal and ventral gaps between spine cinctures. The neuropodial spines begin on setigers 70-95, and the notopodial spines begin on ~setiger 140.

The next taxon we discussed was Glyceridae. Rick showed us an image of a specimen of Hartman's *Glycera capitata* from Puget Sound. We examined the shapes of the superior and inferior lobes on anterior parapods and compared them to those of *G.* sp SD1 which were longer and thinner. We record *G.* sp SD1 uncommonly. Other similar species we will likely encounter in the Bight samples are *G. nana* and *G.* sp LA1. *G. lapidum* is similar and described in Böggemann 2002. Rick cautioned us that there is some variation in proboscis organs in different areas of the proboscis. Leslie noted that staining the proboscis in methyl green can help highlight the structure on the organs.

There was a discussion about a few miscellaneous species that we will probably be encountering in the Bight samples. For our purposes, we agreed to call Karen Meissner's new species of *Spiophanes* from California *Spiophanes* sp K fide Meissner while awaiting the publication of Meissner's thesis research. This species is very similar to *S. fimbriata*.

While working on samples from deeper stations, be aware that *Lumbrineriopsis* is occurring in our area and could be confused with the usually shallow water species *Lumbrinerides*. Rick is preparing a voucher sheet for *Lumbrineriopsis*.

We then discussed the variation of pigment bands in *Onuphis iridescens*. This led to a discussion about other *Onuphis* such as *O. affinis* and *O. geophiliformis*. Since there were many questions that arose, it was agreed there should be a meeting devoted to Onuphids. Leslie Harris and Ron Velarde volunteered to lead the meeting in February.



Leslie showed us an image of a live specimen of *Cossura candida* from Bodega Bay. She said one of the best characters for identification is the pigment pattern on a live animal. For the preserved specimens which we normally see, the placement of the dorsal tentacle remains a problem for use in identification.

After lunch, Leslie gave us a wonderful slide show. The first part included images from a taxonomic workshop she attended at Bocas del Toro in Panama, on August 3 - 15, 2003. In addition to pictures of beautiful, live polychaetes, she showed us slides of animals from the Gamboa Eco-Reserve such as capuchin monkeys, crocodiles, and iguanas. The second part of the show was a cryptofauna survey of Yaqara Bay, Fiji. She stayed at the Yaqara Pastoral Ranch, and the survey was part of the Artificial Reef Matrices (ARMs) project.

We were back to business with Tom Parker showing us an unusual capitellid. The specimen had 12 notosetigers with capillary setae and 10 neurosetigers with capillary setae in the thoracic region. The 12th notosetiger had mixed capillary setae and hooded hooks. The specimen was collected from a depth of 500m. There was no identification resolution reached on this specimen and it was suggested that perhaps it was a morphological aberration.

Next Rick displayed images of a specimen of *Hesperone laevis* from Los Angeles County, station 8C at a depth of approximately 60m. Rick noted that he uses the key in Hartman's Atlas. We reviewed the characters for *H. laevis*; there are approximately 60 setae per fascicle, the neurosetae have coarse serrations, and there is ornamentation on the elytra which have a slight grayish color.

Rick then discussed Oweniidae methyl green staining patterns. He feels that this character is reliable in identifying San Diego specimens. Rick passed around images of staining patterns of three species.

Myriochele striolata specimens have a diagonal band on the prostomium.

M. gracilis specimens have a parallel band on the prostomium.

M. pygidialis specimens have three triangles that encircle each of the first three setal fascicles. Rick reported that an Oweniid key is in progress.

Larry Lovell discussed the recurring taxonomic issue of *Levinsenia oculata* vs. *L. gracilis*. He examined the type material to see if that material supported separation of *L. oculata* from *L. gracilis*. His examination revealed that the holotype and paratype material of *L. oculata* should be referred to *L. gracilis*. It seems that Hartman considered the reddish prostomial pigment as eyespots, and those specimens with more pigment were designated as the new subspecies *Paraonis gracilis oculata* (see



Hartman 1957). Later she elevated *Paraonis oculata* to specific rank (see Hartman 1969). While the prostomial pigment is variable, other characters such as branchial count and modified setae are consistent for local specimens of *L. gracilis*. Larry volunteered to produce a provisional sheet for specimens that we've been calling *L. oculata*. In Southern California, *L. gracilis* and *L. multibranchiata* are valid taxa as is *Levinsenia* sp SD1 whose May 2000 voucher sheet by Kelvin Barwick was discussed briefly.

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