

SCAMIT Code: AHF25; LAC036

Date examined: September 10, 1984

Synonymy:

*Flabelliderma commensalis* (Moore, 1909) Hartman, 1969; *Flabelligera hearens* Chamberlin, 1919.

Literature:

Hartman, 1969  
Light, 1978;  
Moore, 1909;  
Hartman, 1961;  
Spies, 1977.

Diagnostic Characters:

Neurosetae of all setigers except the first, compound or pseudocompound falcigers. Rudimentary mucilaginous sheath on dorsolateral surfaces. All papillae long, pedunculate, with clavate tips, not incrustated with sand or silt. Cephalic cage present. Color in life: Adults reddish purple, ventrum dull orange yellow with green tinge, juveniles grey or light greenish-brown.

Variability:

Neuropodia may have 2 compound falcigers instead of one.

Related species and character differences:

*F. infundibularis* Johnson, 1901 has a very thick mucus sheath in which the bulbous tipped capillae are embedded. The papillae are translucent, unlike the obvious grey (preserved color) papillae in *F. commensalis*.

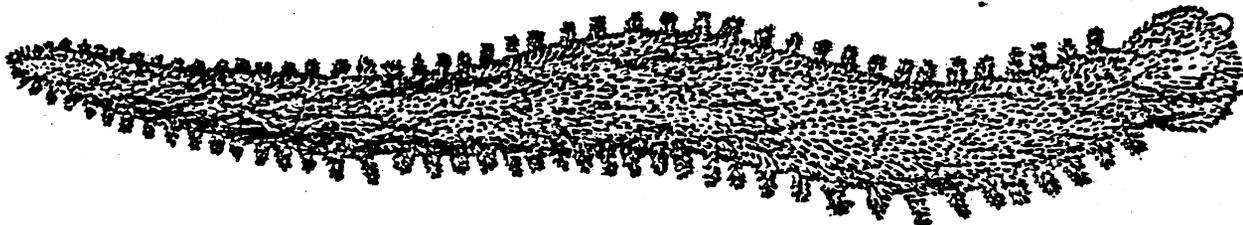
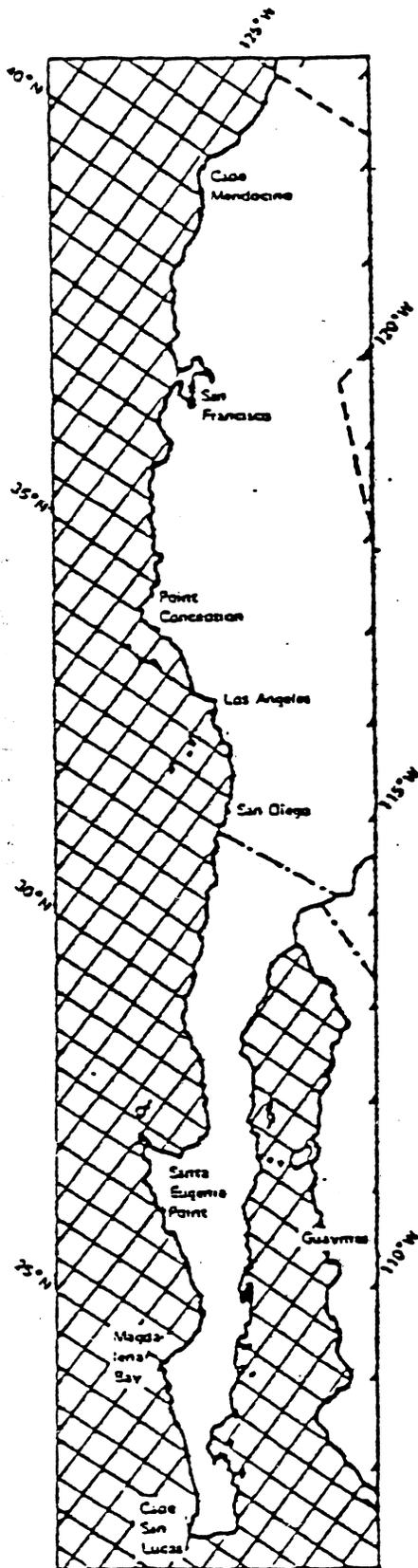


Fig. 1 Entire *Flabelligera commensalis*, mucous sheath rudimentary (Hartman, 1969)



Distribution:

Central and Southern California, intertidal to shelf depths.

Ecology:

Most commonly found on *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* and *S. franciscanus*, also on *Centrostephanus coronatus*, on other sea urchins and some polychaetes. Free-living in kelp holdfasts and on rocky and mixed bottoms. "...uses its palps to feed on the faecal matter of its host, it will also employ its own respiratory current for feeding on loose detritus (Spies, 1975)".

-Fauchald and Jumars, 1979

Comments:

The illustrations of the whole animal in Hartman 1961 and 1969 are deceptive because they make the worm appear flattened and oval in cross-section, with very obvious cross papillation. In most preserved animals the papillation is minute and indistinguishable against the overall grey color, while the papillae of the notapodia is appressed to the body. The dorsum is flat and the neuropodia are situated ventrally, widely spaced from the notopodia.

Fig. 2 Capillary setae of 1st setiger (Hartman 1969)



Fig. 3 Composite neurohook from setiger 25 (Hartman 1969)



Fig. 4 Cross section of median setiger

