

From
July/August, 2006 Vol. 25, No. 2 SCAMIT Newsletter

ver. 070220 RCR

Polycirrus spp

Discussed next was *Polycirrus californicus* and *P. perplexus* Moore 1923. These two species are found in different habitats; *P. californicus* is found in soft bottoms and *P. perplexus* is found on kelp holdfasts and scrapings from hard substrates. Rick showed us pictures of the staining patterns of these species which are distinct. We viewed a specimen of *P. perplexus* of Leslie's from shallow water scrapings. The dorsum is rugose and there is a light methyl green staining ventral peristomial patch. In addition there are approximately 3 segments where the middle ventral scutes stain lighter than the nearby scutes.

Larry Lovell handed out copies of a table that he made comparing which characters have been used for *Polycirrus* by various authors. A copy of the table is included with this newsletter. We discussed the characters and commented on which ones were best to use in identifying species of *Polycirrus*. There was a discussion about regenerating heads. When *Polycirrus* are stressed or about to be eaten, they often lose their tentacles and head which serve as a distraction and allow the rest of the animal to escape. Therefore, we often get specimens with regenerating anterior ends and consequently the number of thoracic setigers can be variable. We concluded that this is not a good character to use in species determination.

Images of several provisional *Polycirrus* species were passed around including *P. sp* OC1, *P. sp* SD1, *P. sp* SD2, and *P. sp* SD3.

RCR added (070220):

Following is Lovell's table which was included at end of newsletter containing characters used by various authors.