



# Key to the Family Cossuridae of SCAMIT Ed. 15 and Local Provisional Species



B. Haggin (LACSD)  
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## Definitions

MGS - Methyl Green Stain pattern

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |       |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1a. Branchial filament inserted on chaetiger 2 or 3                                                                                                                                                                                        | ..... | 2                                                 |
| 1b. Branchial filament inserted on Chaetiger 4                                                                                                                                                                                             |       | <i>Cossura modica</i><br>Fauchald & Hancock, 1981 |
| 2a. (1a) Branchial filament inserted on chaetiger 2 (appears even with or anterior to the chaetae on chaetiger 3)                                                                                                                          | ..... | 3                                                 |
| 2b. Branchial filament inserted on chaetiger 3 (appears posterior to the chaetae on chaetiger 3)                                                                                                                                           | ..... | 7                                                 |
| 3a. (2a) Anterior fragment with at least 35 segments                                                                                                                                                                                       | ..... | 4                                                 |
| 3b. Anterior fragment with fewer than 35 segments                                                                                                                                                                                          |       | <i>Cossura</i> sp                                 |
| 4a. (3a) MGS with dorso- & ventrolateral patches remaining separate in posterior thorax                                                                                                                                                    | ..... | 5                                                 |
| 4b. MGS with dorso- & ventrolateral patches merging in posterior thorax, forming continuous band; branchial filament inserted in segmental furrow between chaetigers 2 & 3; 32-33 thoracic chaetigers                                      |       | <i>Cossura</i> sp LA2<br>Haggin, 2025 §           |
| 5a. (4a) Specimen with pygidium present                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ..... | 6                                                 |
| 5b. Specimen with pygidium absent                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       | <i>Cossura</i> sp                                 |
| 6a. (5a) Pygidium with 3 long pygidial cirri & 8-20 digitate pygidial processes                                                                                                                                                            |       | <i>Cossura pygodactylata</i><br>Jones, 1956       |
| 6b. Pygidium with 3 long pygidial cirri only, digitate pygidial processes absent                                                                                                                                                           |       | <i>Cossura</i> sp A<br>SCAMIT, 2025 §             |
| 7a. (5b) MGS connecting laterally between chaetal fascicles; branchial filament inserted in anterior 1/2 chaetiger                                                                                                                         | ..... | 8                                                 |
| 7b. MGS not connecting laterally between chaetal fascicles; branchial filament inserted in posterior 1/2 of chaetiger, closer to chaetiger 4; thorax with 20-31 chaetigers; pygidium with 3 long pygidial cirri, pygidial processes absent |       | <i>Cossura bansei</i><br>Hilbig, 1996             |
| 8a. (3b) Thorax with more than 20 chaetigers (counting transitional chaetigers)                                                                                                                                                            | ..... | 9                                                 |
| 8b. Thorax with fewer than 16-18 chaetigers; body often pigmented brown; pygidium with 3 very long pygidial cirri                                                                                                                          |       | <i>Cossura brunnea</i><br>Fauchald, 1972          |
| 9a. (8a) MGS of posterior thoracic chaetigers forming a continuous band ventrally                                                                                                                                                          |       | <i>Cossura rostrata</i><br>Fauchald, 1972         |
| 9b. MGS of posterior thoracic chaetigers in discrete patches, not forming continuous bands ventrally                                                                                                                                       |       | <i>Cossura candida</i><br>Hartman, 1955           |

## Version History

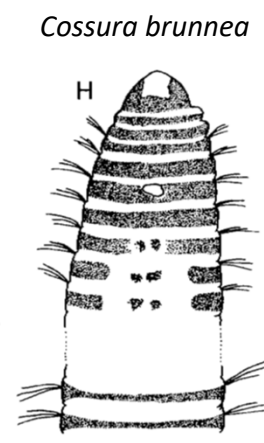
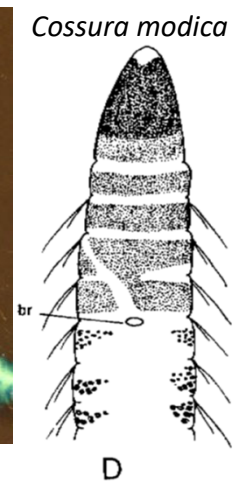
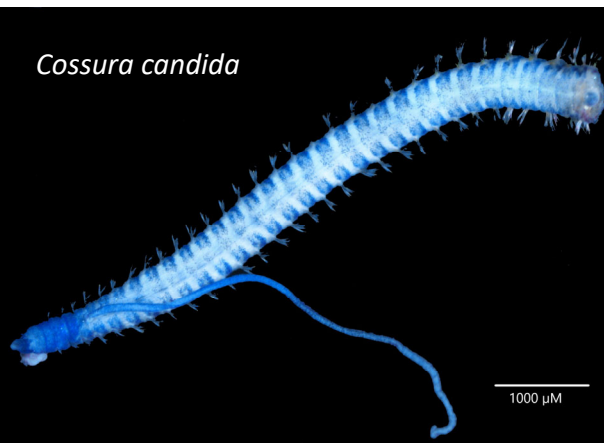
1.0 Key Created.

June, 2025 - BMH

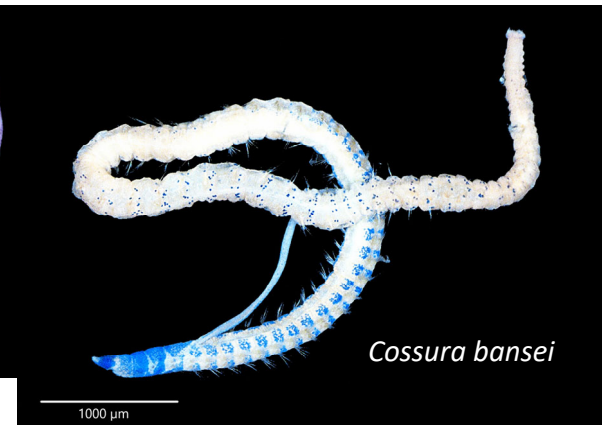
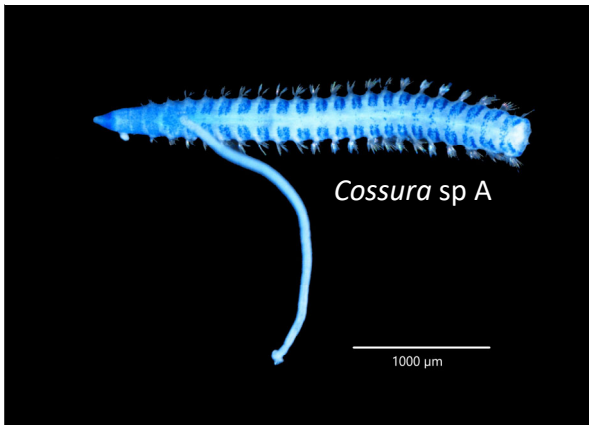
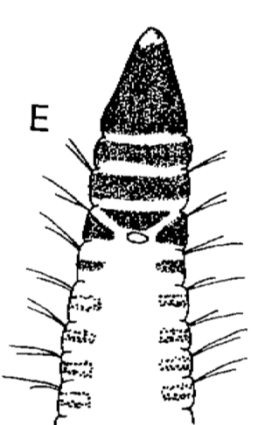
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# Cossura Stain Comparison - Dorsal



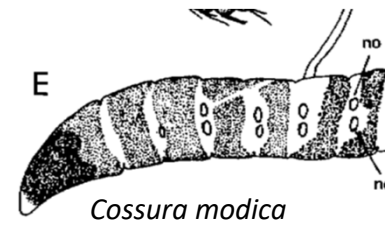
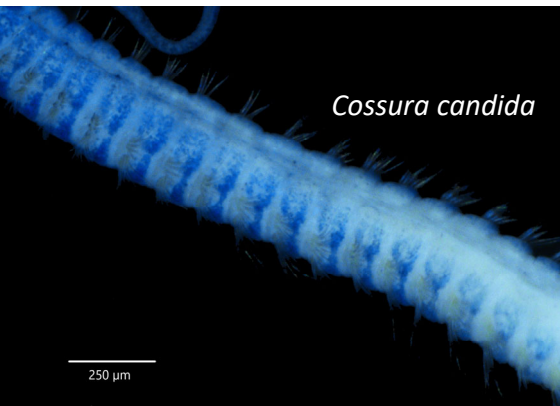
*Cossura pygodactylata*



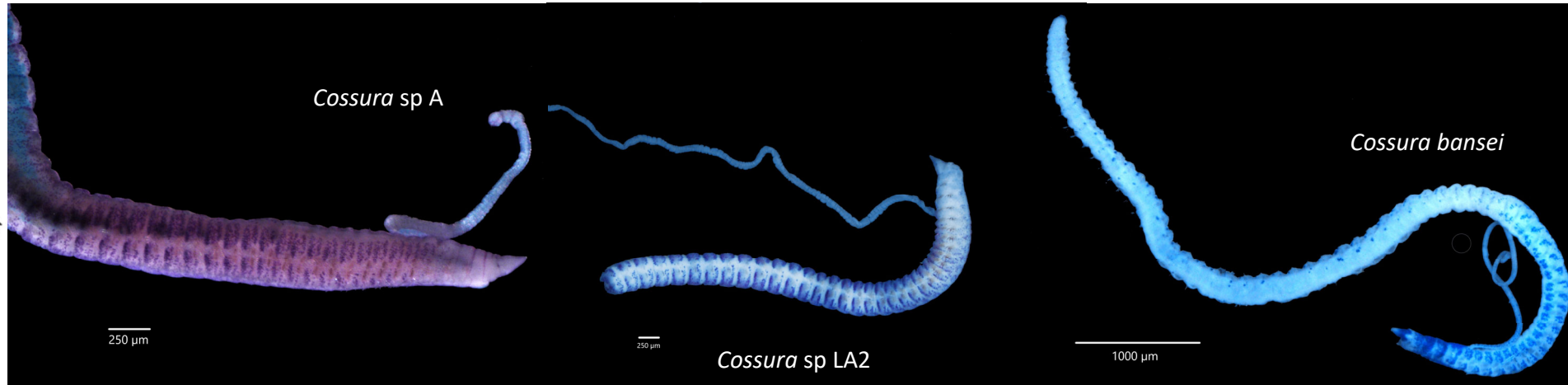
Source: Hilbig (1996); Images by B. Haggin



# Cossura Stain Comparison - Lateral



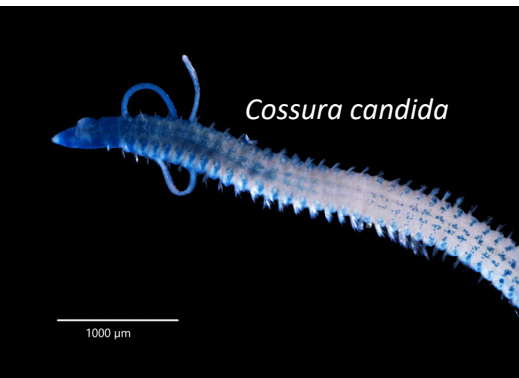
*Cossura pygodactylata*



Source: Hilbig (1996); Images by B. Haggin

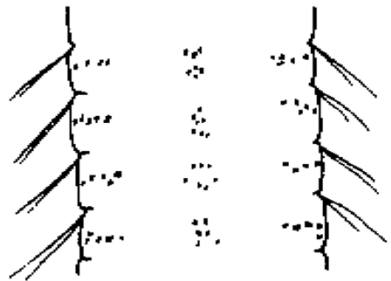


# Cossura Stain Comparison - Ventral

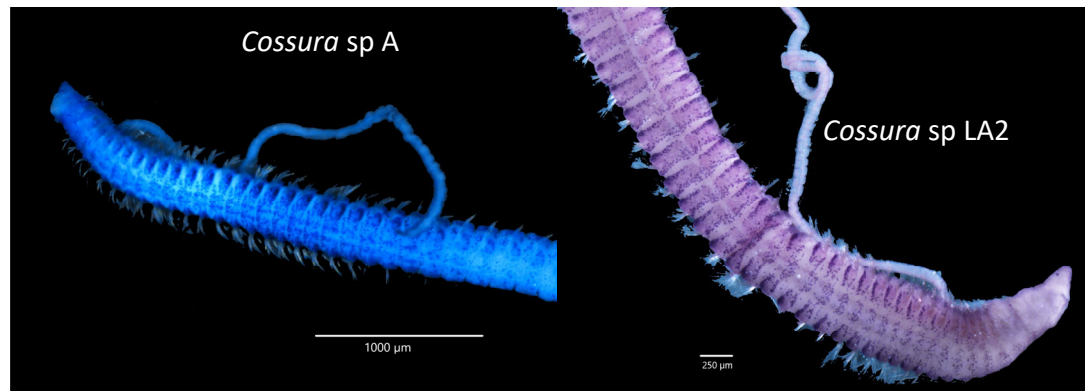


*Cossura brunnea*

*Cossura pygodactylata*



G



Source: Hilbig (1996); Images by B. Haggin

