

KEY TO IDENTIFICATION OF AMPHIODIA SPP IN SCBPP SAMPLES
 (partially based on Pasko 1994)
 D. B. Cadien - Marine Biology Lab CSDLAC, 15 Oct 1994

- 1a. disk cap absent 2
- b. disk cap present 5

- 2a. arm spines cylindrical, truncate, flattened in cross-section *A. occidentalis*
- b. arm spines tapered, pointed, round or oval in cross-section 3

- 3a. arm spines bluntly pointed, lacking hyaline tips *A. psara*
- b. arm spines acutely pointed, often with hyaline tips 4

- 4a. distal margin of dorsal arm plates straight*, no gap between lateral and dorsal arm plates *A. digitata*
- b. distal margin of dorsal arm plates angled up at the sides*, leaving a gap between the dorsal and lateral arm plates through which tissue is visible *A. urtica*

- 5a. disk cap less than 2mm in diameter OR disk cap consists of primary scales and few other small scales, OR # of marginal scales 2 or less on either side of the mid-marginal scale, OR # of marginal scales indeterminate *Amphiodia* sp
- b. disk cap greater than 2 mm diameter 6

- 6a. primary and mid-marginal scales little or not different in size from other disk cap scales (cap regenerated) 7
- b. primary and mid-marginal scales larger than other disk cap scales (original cap) ~~7~~ 11

- 7a. some scales on disk cap produced into hyaline points 8
- b. no scales on disk cap produced into hyaline points 9

- 8a. distal margin of dorsal arm plates straight, no gap between lateral and dorsal arm plates; all marginal scales of similar size *A. digitata*
- b. distal margin of dorsal arm plates angled up at the sides, leaving a gap between the dorsal and lateral arm plates through which tissue is visible; marginal scales largest near radial shields and decreasing in size towards mid-marginal scale *A. urtica*

- 9a. arm spines cylindrical, truncate, flattened in cross-section *A. occidentalis*
- b. arm spines tapering, pointed, oval or round in cross-section 10

- 10a. arm spines bluntly pointed *A. psara*
- b. arm spines acutely pointed, often with hyaline tips *A. urtica*

- 11a. some scales on disk cap produced into hyaline points 12
- b. no scales on disk cap produced into hyaline points 15

- 12a. scales with hyaline points continuous in, and restricted to, marginal row *A. digitata*
- b. scales with hyaline points either not continuous in or not restricted to marginal row 13

- 13a. numerous rows of hyaline pointed scales present on disk cap, one of which may be marginal ... *A. urtica*
- b. no continuous rows of hyaline pointed scales on disk cap 14

- 14a. hyaline pointed scales restricted to margin of genital (bursal) slits *A. urtica*
- b. hyaline pointed scales present around bases of arms & scattered elsewhere on disk cap *A. urtica*

- 15a. arm spines cylindrical, truncate, flattened in cross-section *A. occidentalis*
- b. arm spines tapering, bluntly pointed, oval or round in cross-section *A. psara*

*= these characters best viewed on dried specimens

PLEASE NOTE - any specimen which fails to clearly fall into one of the choices in any couplet should be reported as *Amphiodia* sp. An undescribed species of *Amphiodia* occurs in this area according to Dr. Gordon Hendler. The species is from relatively coarse substrates in shallow water, and has probably been reported as *A. occidentalis* or *A. psara* in the past. It would probably key to one or the other of those species in the present key. Dr. Hendler has not seen southern California specimens of *A. occidentalis*, and believes the species does not occur here.

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