

# CLASS OPHIUROIDEA

## Order Ophiurida

### Family Amphiuridae

*Amphiodia sp. A*

Haney 2008 §

#### General Description:

Character	<i>Amphiodia sp. A</i>
Pattern of Aboral Disk	Sm. Scales inflated disc
Radial Shield Pattern	Parallel bands
Pattern of Oral Disk	Sm. Scales
Hyaline Forks	Few-Many
Arm Insertion to Disk	Underneath
Number of Oral Papillae	3
Arrangement of Papillae	tubular
Infradental Papillae	2Block-like
Oral Shield Pattern	Diamond
Adoral Shield Spine	No
Tooth Pattern	Wedge shaped
Number of Arm Spines	3
Pattern of Arm Spines	Sm, equal size
Number of Ventral Plate Scales	2sm right angle
Pattern of Dorsal Arm Plates	Rhomboidal
Pattern of Ventral Arm Plates	Square/Heart
Cushion btwn Arm Plates	Yes
Color of Animal Preserved	Cream/ long legs



Photos taken by Lisa Haney LACSD

This animal was first noticed by Don Cadien (LACSD) in 2001 and distributed as *Amphiodia* sp LA1. Oral disk is pigmented ventrally and dorsally. A muted dark/light pigment pattern is noted for the dorsal arms. The dark pigment seems to disappear after being in alcohol for long periods of time. Arms are very long, thin and nimble; they seem to smoothly unravel from each other unlike what is observed for *A. urtica* and *A. digitata*. Forked scales are not restricted to arm bases and may be bifid or trifid. The banded color pattern on the arms distinguish this species from *A. urtica* and *A. digitata*.



Photo taken by Cheryl Brantley (LACSD). Notice pigment pattern on the arms.

Comparison of like species:

<b>Characters</b>	<i>Amphiodia urtica</i>	<i>Amphiodia sp. A</i>	<i>Amphiodia psara</i>
Recurved spines on first inserted arm spine	Yes	Yes	No
Hylan forks present at arm insertion on dorsal oral disk	Yes	Yes	No
Light/Dark pigment pattern on oral disk and arms	No	Yes Muted pattern but noticeable	Yes Strong pattern, jumps right out at you
Is pigment pattern retained after extended time in alcohol	N/A	No	Yes

Additional Pictures:



Arm spines and ventral plate scales



Arm spines



Ventral arm plates



Dorsal arm plates

Photos taken by Lisa Haney



Dorsal arm plates with mottled dark/light coloration pattern

Photo by Lisa Haney