SCAMIT CODE: None

Date Examined: January 1993
Voucher By: Don Cadien

SYNONYMY: *Tellina sp A* Ljubenkov 1992
Tellina sp A SCAMIT 1993

LITERATURE:
Carpenter, P. P. 1864. Supplementary report on the present state of our knowledge with regard to the Mollusca of the West Coast of North America. Report to the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1863; 517-686

Coan, E. V. 1971. The northwest American Tellinidae. The Veliger 14(Supplement):1-63

Dall, W.H. 1900. Synopsis of the family Tellinidae and of the North American species. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 23(1210):285-326

Palmer, K. v.W. 1958. Type specimens of marine Mollusca described by P. P. Carpenter from the west coast (San Diego to British Columbia). Geological Society of America, Memoir 76:1-376

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. pronounced sculpture consisting of fine raised concentric ridges, regular and close in juveniles, becoming more widely spaced and fading with growth; nearly or completely lacking in adult (while retained near umbos)

2. shell color variegated pink and yellow in conspicuous and consistant pattern of mid-valve pink wedge surrounded by inverted yellow v

3. internal strengthening rib present, but poorly defined

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

1. Differs from *Tellina carpenteri* in having fine raised concentric sculpture on the early part of the shell, and in having a central pink wedge/inverted yellow V color pattern instead of a uniform translucent rose color with two thin anterior white rays

2. Differs from *Tellina modesta* in having fine raised concentric sculpture on the early part of the shell which fades with growth, rather than wide flat concentric ridges which become stronger with growth; in being strongly colored rather than transparent to translucent white, in having a much weaker strengthening rib internally; and in having a greater ratio of height to length

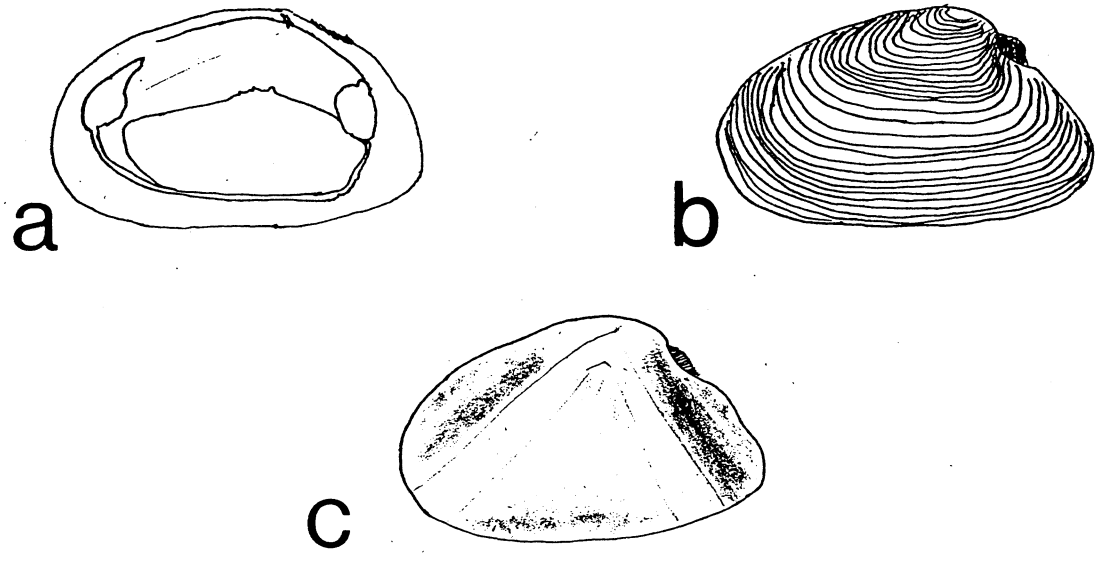
DEPTH RANGE: 60 - 305m (probably also deeper [Coan's 441m for *T. carpenteri*])

DISTRIBUTION: at least Point Loma to Santa Monica Bay, maybe Alaska to Panama since previous records of *T. carpenteri* and *T. sp A* are intermixed

COMMENTS: The history of use of the name *Tellina carpenteri* is clouded. It was originally proposed by Dall (1900) as a replacement name for the preoccupied *Tellina variegata* of Carpenter (1864). It is unclear if reference is being made to the variegated form upon which Carpenter based his 1864 description, or to the solid rose pink form to which it is usually applied in our area. The two often occur together, and it is possible that Carpenter's syntype lot is a mixture of the two forms. Coan (1971) mentions two forms he regards as *T. carpenteri*, one of which I believe to be *T. sp A*. His "large, flat, light-colored offshore one" seems to correspond to the present species, and his "smaller, more inflated, more brightly colored one in bays" is what we call *T. carpenteri*.

Based on bathymetric data collected off Palos Verdes in February 1992 the center of the *T. sp A* population lies deeper than that of *T. carpenteri*. The species occurred at 82% of the stations at 305m, with 72% of the population at this depth. At 150m the species was taken at 55% of the sampled sites, but only 18% of the population occurred at this depth. Declines continued inshore with occurrence at 27% of the 61m sites, where 9% of the population was located. The species was absent at 30m. *Tellina carpenteri* occurred at 64% of the 305m stations, all 150m and 61m stations, and 27% of the 30m stations. Only 5% of the population was located at 305m, with 60% at 150m, 32% at 61m, and 3% at 30m.

Examination of the *Tellina variegata* syntypes may require a reversal of the current usage, with what we currently call *T. sp A* being the true *T. carpenteri*, and the rose pink "carpenteri" requiring a new name. For the moment we will continue with the names as fixed by Ljubenkov in the SCAMIT Newsletter in July 1992.



Tellina sp A a) interior of right valve; b) exterior of left valve;
c) color pattern: inverted V pale yellow, other areas orangish pink