

SCAMIT CODE: None

Date Examined: 05 April 2005

Voucher By: K. Barwick/D. Cadien

SYNONYMY: None

LITERATURE: Scheltema, 1998

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Body regionated, BLI 6.7; anterium somewhat inflated, neck equal in diameter to anterior trunk; anterior and posterior trunks subequal in length, posterior trunk of greater diameter (Figure A); slight reduction of body diameter at end of posterior trunk and beginning of posterium (Figure B)
2. Posterium abruptly expanded into an annulus under the peribranchial plate; peribranchial skirt not evident; spicular fringe very short, not reaching peribranchial plate (Figure B).
3. Oral shield entire, not dorsally incised (Figure D).
4. Radular denticles of moderate size, about 30% the length of the lateral plate; radular cone straight and gently tapering in frontal view; cone concave frontally and broader in lateral view (Figure E)
5. Mid-anterior trunk spicules of anterior trunk with strong central keel; little or no lateral ridging; edges thickened. Some with rounded bases others with ragged squared-off bases. (Figure F).

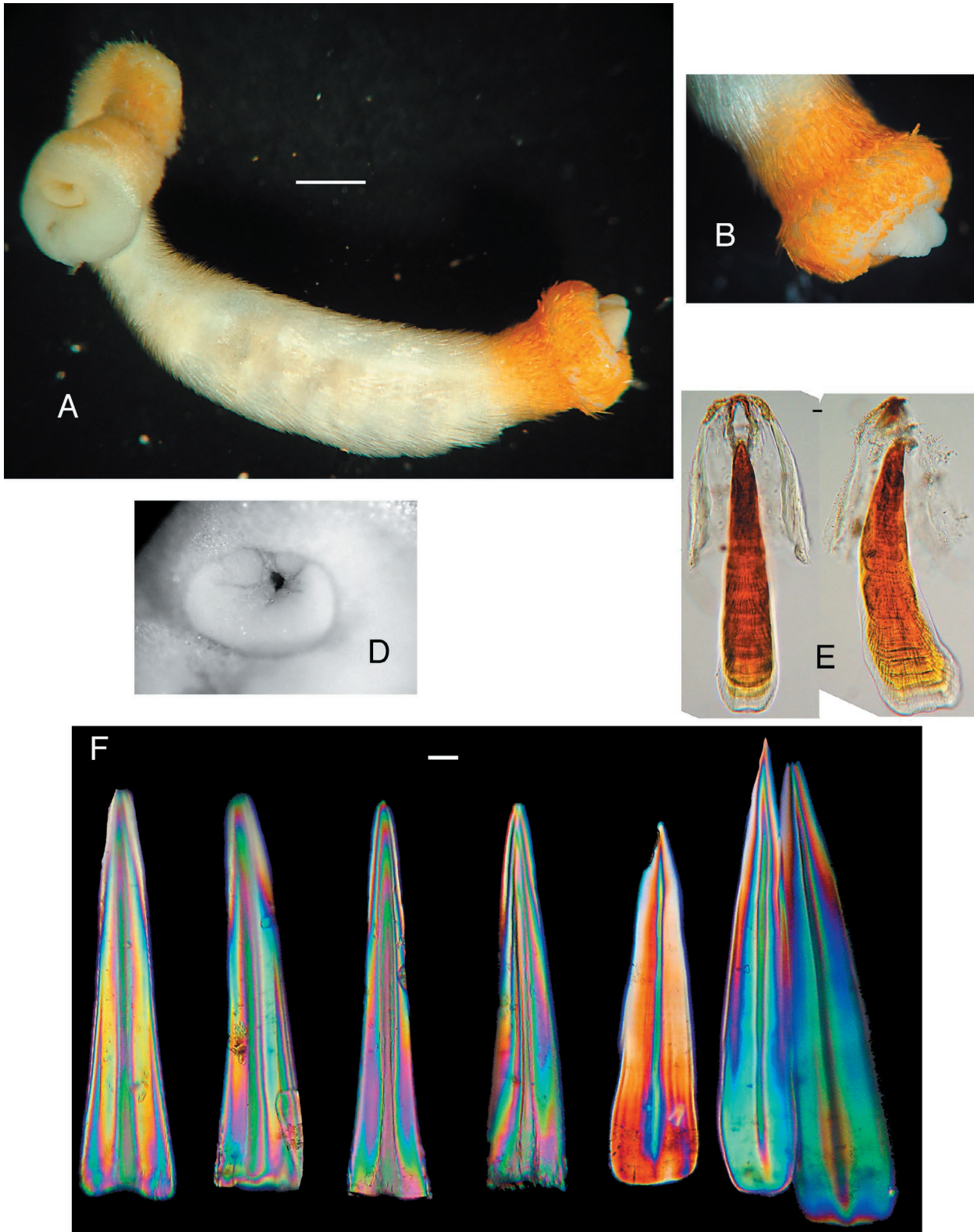
RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

1. *Chaetoderma* sp A is among the shorter chaetodermomorphs in the NEP. The short group also includes *C. californicum*, *C. nanulum*, *C. recisum*, *C. scabrum*, *Falcidens longus*, and *F. macracanthos*. It can be distinguished from *C. californicum*, *C. nanulum* and the two *Falcidens* species by having an entire, unincised oral shield.
2. *C. recisum* differs from *C. sp A* in having: an inflated neck wider than the anterior trunk; and in the long spicular fringe of the posterium;
3. *C. scabrum* can be separated from *C. sp A* by: neck narrower than anterium; posterium not annularly expanded; spicular fringe extending over peribranchial plate; radular denticles very small, 20% or less the length of the lateral plate.

DEPTH RANGE: known from a single specimen taken at 660m

DISTRIBUTION: Upper Continental Slope; Southern California Bight

DISCUSSION: Only a single specimen of this form has been recognized to date. More may remain misidentified as another species in collections. The degree of variability in body proportions and spicule morphology cannot yet be defined, but the specimen does not fit into any of the described species, although it is particularly close to *C. scabrum*. It is also close to *C. nanulum* in many characters of the body regionation, but can easily be separated by the entire oral shield.



*Chaetoderma* sp A SCAMIT 2005§ A. Whole animal, lateral view (scale bar 1mm) B. Posterior lateral view C. Anterior view E. Radula frontal and lateral views F. Spicules from mid-anterior trunk (scale bars 0.01mm) (Bight 2003 Sta. 4100, 20JUL03, 660m)