

SCAMIT CODE: None

Date Examined: 05 April 2005

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SYNONYMY: *Chevroderma* sp LA1 Cadien 2003§

LITERATURE: Scheltema, 1985; Scheltema & Ivanov, 2000

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Body robust anteriorly, tapering abruptly to a short shank, pale golden in color; anterium often inverted (Figure A)
2. Oral shield separated into two hemispheres surrounding the mouth, (prochaetodermatids) (Figure C)
3. With two rows of enlarged spicules surrounding cephalic shield
4. Posterior knob with protrusive spicular fringe, spicules emergent at more than half the length of knob; spicules convergent, knob only slightly larger in diameter than shank (Figure B)
5. Spicules very similar to those of *Spathoderma californicum*; broad, waisted at about 55-60% of length, lacking ridges or chevrons, thickest centrally with thin edges (Figure D)

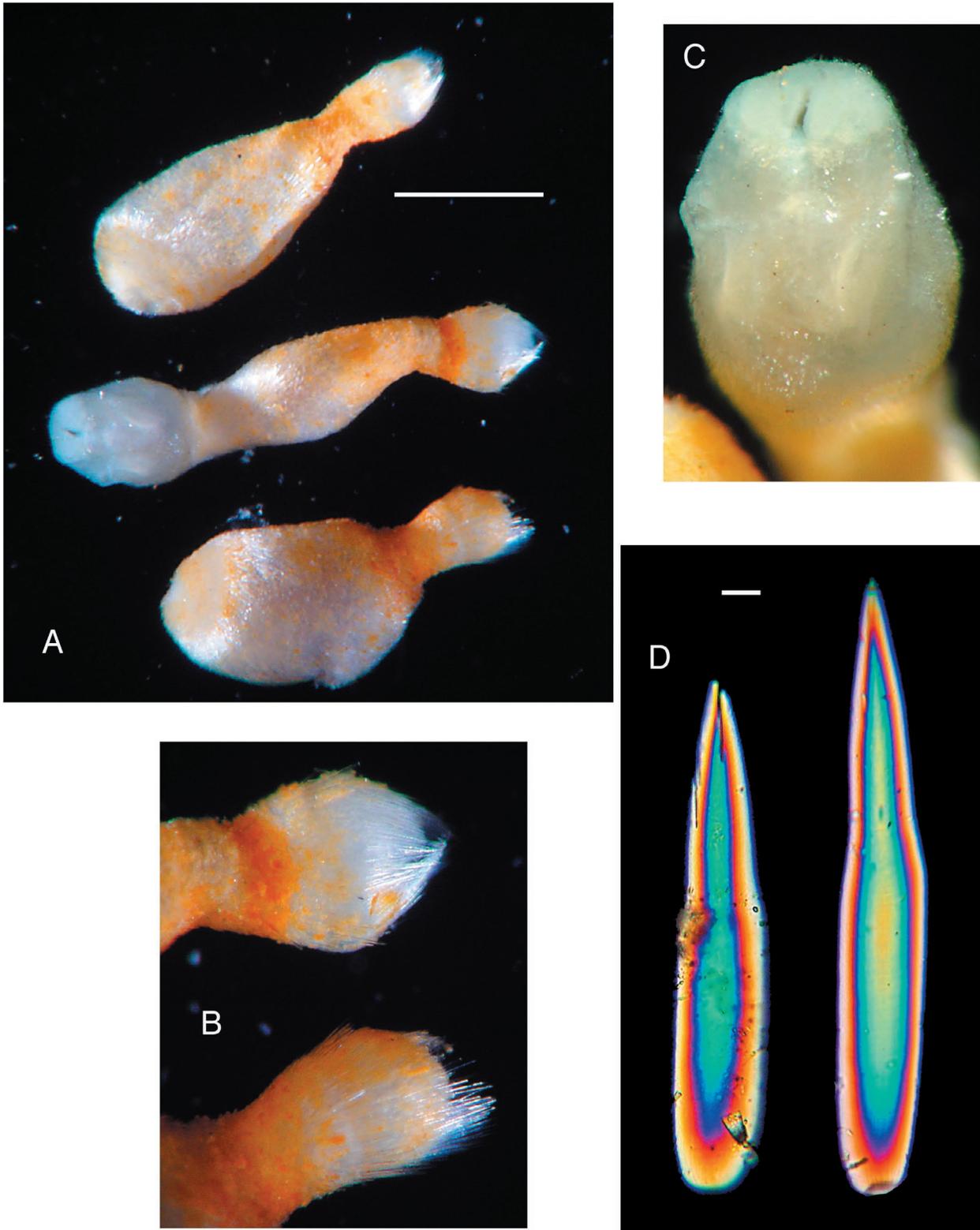
RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

1. Similar to *Spathoderma californicum* in many characters, but of very different body proportions. Hardly tapering prior to shank, shorter than knob; shank and knob together nearly half trunk length
2. Could be confused with several other prochaetodermatids known from the Oregon Slope, but differs from all in the extremely short, thick non-tapering trunk and short shank. Spicule attitude is closely appressed throughout length, not at all shaggy. Spicular fringe of knob is convergent rather than straight or divergent

DEPTH RANGE: 643m

DISTRIBUTION: off Palos Verdes Peninsula, California

COMMENTS: The species looks like the anterior end of a Limifossor grafted onto the posterior end of a *Spathoderma*. All five specimens so far known are of a pale golden color, markedly differing from the clear silver of *S. californicum*. Four of the specimens have the anterium completely inverted, making the trunk shorter and broader than in the anterium everted specimen. This accentuates the similarity to Limifossor. The spicules of *S. sp A* are a bit straighter than typical *S. californicum* spicules, but otherwise quite similar. No radula has yet been extracted from these specimens, so jaw detail and radula structure are not yet known. It co-occurred with *Spathoderma californicum* in both samples where it was taken.



*Spathoderma* sp A SCAMIT 2005 A. Whole animal, lateral view (scale bar 1mm) B. Posterior lateral view C. Anterior view D. Spicules from mid-anterior trunk (scale bar 0.01 mm)  
(GCT2, 643m, IV 0.5a, 24Mar03)