

Phoronis sp SD1



This species is most often found at CSD's southern ITP stations between 30m and 60m, in sandy sediments. It can co-occur with *Phoronis* sp (which has no evident pigment). The pigment, as seen above, can be variable in placement and intensity/color but is usually found as two "spots" at the base of the lophophores.

Be cautious when looking for this species as the pigment does fade with time and can become more difficult to see. The animal in the top image had been preserved for 2 months at the time of the photograph. The animal in the bottom image had been preserved for 1 year.

In addition to the pigment being a noticeable difference from other *Phoronis* sp sampled, this species also has a "delicate" gestalt, with a low number of "wispy" lophores and a thin trunk. It is found in tubes of fine sand.

I have yet to determine if this pigment pattern could possibly be a temporary seasonal/reproductive character or if it is a diagnostic morphological character.

*Update - it has now been sampled in PLOO stations as well at the 100m contour but is still predominantly seen in SBOO stations.

- M. Lilly, September 2006 (revised November 2020)