

***Diplandros singularis* Hyman 1953**

SCAMIT Vol. , No

Group: Platyhelminthes: Turbellaria: Polycladida: Leptoplanidae

SCAMIT CODE: None

Date Examined: 20 October 2009
Voucher By: John Ljubenkov Oct 1993
Confirmed: C. Paquette 12 May 1995

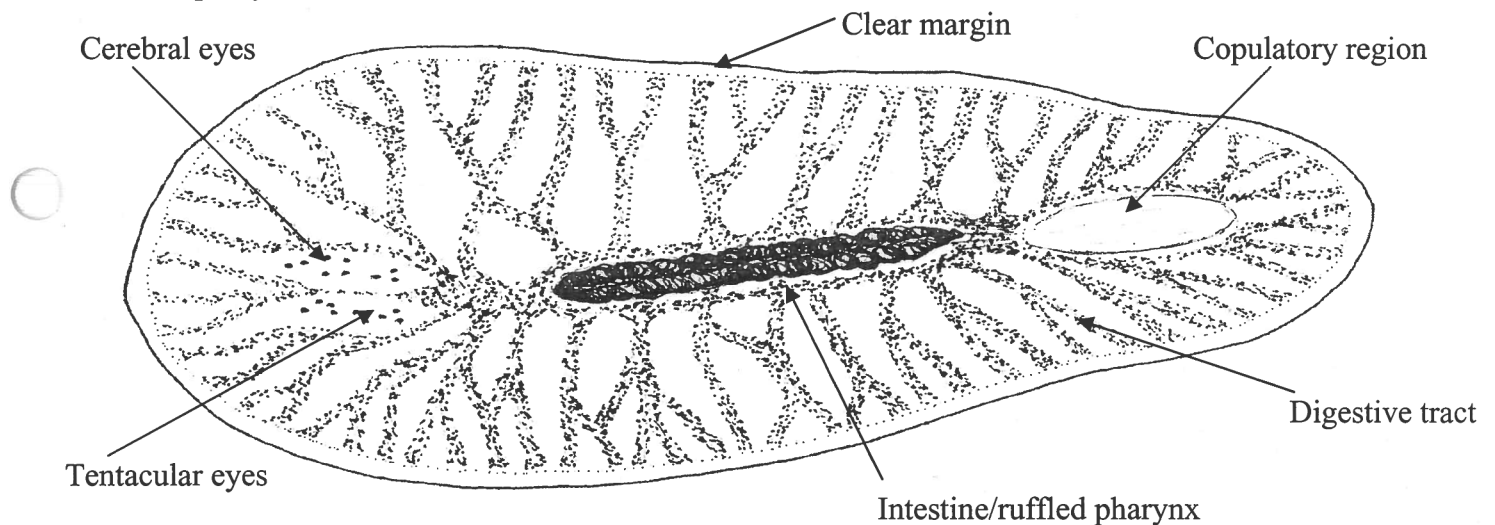
SYNONYMY: None

LITERATURE:

Hyman, L. 1953. The Polyclad Flatworms of the Pacific Coast of North America. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, 100(2)265-392.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Body creme, tentacles absent
2. eyes scanty; tentacular cluster 4-6; cerebral cluster 3-4, lying anterior to tentacular cluster; no marginal or frontal eyes
3. ruffled pharynx



RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

The only other identified species in the SCB that could be confused with *Diplandros singularis* would be *Plehnia caeca*. It does not have marginal, frontal or tentacular eyes. Hyman described the eyes of *Plehnia* as "cerebral eyes in the form of a pair of loose groups composed of very small eyes." In looking at specimens I could easily say one of the groups was in a tentacular position, just posterior to a cerebral group. The primary difference I see is that the eyes in *Plehnia* are very tiny when compared to the eyes seen in the *Diplandros* specimen. The body shape of *Plehnia* is very distinctive in that both the anterior and posterior ends are pointed. *Plehnia* is a thick species with a coloration of tan to brown; *Diplandros singularis* is a crème color and thin. *Plehnia* ventrally shows the male gonopore as a series of depressed, concentric rings, not seen in *Diplandros*. When cleared the specimen of *Diplandros* shows distinctive digestive tracts radiating from the intestine/ruffled pharynx to the periphery of the clear body margin, not visible in cleared *Plehnia*.

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The specimens that Hyman looked at were 23 mm and 13 mm. The present specimen is 7 mm. This would explain the difference in eye counts for the cerebral and tentacular cluster (6-7 and 10 respectfully).

DEPTH RANGE:

59 meters

DISTRIBUTION:

Orange County; Historical distribution in species description – Ensenada to La Jolla, San Clemente Island (no depths listed)