

Subj: Taxonomy Discussion Group: Taxonomic Discussion Group: Sipunculida: Golfingiidae: Nephasoma
Date: 4/28/99 11:01:50 AM Pacific Daylight Time
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Don Cadien (CSDLAC) - different Nephasoma

Hi Puncers (if there is anyone who merits that name locally)

B'98 Sample 2325 from 13m off the mouth of the Santa Ana River yielded one small specimen of a sipunculid differing from our usual. It is a golfingiid, and keys to the genus Nephasoma (2 partially fused introvert retractor muscles). The introvert is tightly coiled, and I initially considered that it might be a phascolionid, but details preclude that.

Our local Nephasoma (diaphanes) has only a few tentacular lobes, scattered hooks, and lives in pretty deep water. The current animal completely lacks hooks, has a full complement of normal flattened-digitate tentacles (c. 12), and comes from 13m! Using the key to the genus in Cutler 1994 this animal keys to *N. eremita*. I am hesitant to apply that name to the single specimen at hand, especially as Cutler characterizes it as rare in the N. Pacific, and provides only a cursory description.

Dean Pasko has informed me that a specimen had been taken off San Diego which had tentatively been identified as *N. eremita*. Has anyone else seen a similar Nephasoma locally, or identified *N. eremita* from our area?

Expectantly,

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