NOTES ON AMPHARETIDAE AND TEREBELLIDAE WORKSHOP

Susan J. Williams--7 May 1984

Ampharetids should be examined using a combination of materials including Hartman's Atlas, Sue William's key from the SCCWRP Proceedings, and Mary Ellen's tables. Additionally, I have attached some information on the family that I had put together several years ago for training purposes.

These notes are arranged in two parts: the first covers tips on features of each group (branchial arrangements, prostomial features, etc) and the second covers comments on the identifications of specimens in our collection.

Ampharetids have simple branchiae.

They are often arranged 3+1

Ampharete spp. 

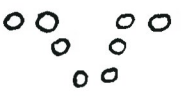
Sosanopsis sp 

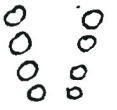
They can also be arranged 2+2

Amphicteis spp 

Amphisamytha bioculata 

They can also be arranged other ways:

Paramage scutata 

Mexamage sp 

Branchial arrangement is genus specific (all species in a genus have the same branchial arrangement). Interbranchial distance is probably variable.

If there are only three pairs of branchiae, they are often arranged in a transverse row (as in Eclysippe -- Anobothrus trilobatus of Hartman's Atlas).

Ampharetids have quite a bit of structure in the prostomium.

They are often in three parts.
There are glandular ridges.
Oral tentacles are retractile, so you often don't see them.
Presence or absence of eyes should not be taken to heart too much, the character is variable.
Paleae may or may not be present. Be aware that some authors count the paleal segment as the first setiger and some do not. Sue suggests using Fauchald's method of getting around the issue by counting thoracic uncinigers rather than thoracic setigers.