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SCAMIT Code: LACO 74 (as Melinna exila)

Date examined: 14 April 1986  
Voucher By: Larry Lovell (MEC)

Literature:

Fauchald, 1972  
Hartman, 1969  
Moore, 1923 (as M. cristata heterodonta)

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Eighteen thoracic setigers.
2. Branchiae four pairs of equal length, subulate, somewhat greenish colored in freshly preserved material.
3. Nuchal hooks yellow, slightly curved.
4. Transverse membrane extends from notosetae to notosetae, with 11 to 16 triangular lobes (some bilobed).

Related Species and Differences:

1. M. oculata differs in that the branchiae are cross-barred with black pigment and the nuchal hooks are more recurved.
2. M. exila differs by the transverse membrane being narrow. (This species is questionable, examination of type material revealed a folded transverse membrane. Sue Williams-pers. comm.)
3. M. plana differs by having fifteen thoracic setigers and a smooth transverse membrane.
4. M. tentaculata differs by having oral tentacles and branchiae of more than one length.

Distribution:

Central and Southern California, the Gulf of California; in shelf, slope and abyssal depths.

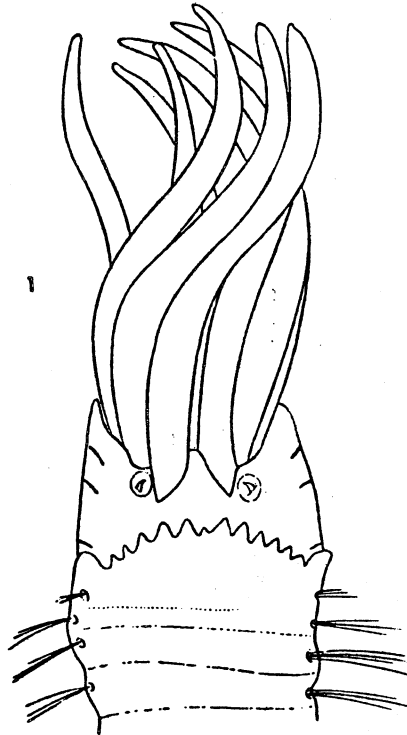


Figure 1. Anterior end, showing branchiae, nuchal hooks,  
and transverse membrane.

Figure is from Hartman, 1969.