SCAMIT Code: AHF23

Date examined: August 13, 1984

Literature:

Hartman, O. 1969. Atlas of Sedentariate Polychaetous Annelids from California. Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California Press, Los Angeles, CA: 1-812.

Diagnostic Characters:

Excavate acicular setae present in both rami in median and posterior segments. Body generally dark. Constructs calcareous matri-ces of tubes. Color dark green to brownish black, releases bright green color in aqueous and alcohol solutions. Length of body 25 to 40 mm; width about 1 mm, segments number to 130; body tumid, tapers posteriorly (fig. 1). Prostomium bluntly conical, without eyes. A pair of long, thick palpi and first pair of lateral branchiae on first setiger, the palpi thicker and grooved. Branchiae present on 3 to 11 segments, decrease in length posteriorly. Capillary setae in notopodia and neuropodia of anterior and middle segments, each minutely dentate at cutting edge. Thick acicular neurosetae first from setiger 9-12, each distally spoon-shaped (fig. 2) continued to end of body. Similar but smaller notosetae first present farther back, and continued to end; capillary setae absent posteriorly. Contructing calcareous tubes in compact masses (fig. 3) in littoral rocky zones. Mature individuals in one colony of one sex; sexual reproduction followed by autotomy and regeneration to form entire colony. Adults mature gradually, with larval development proceeding throughout the year. Fertilized ovum hatches as ciliated trochophore.

Related species and character differences:

Separable from D. concharum Oersted, 1843 primarily by habitat. D. concharum bores in calcareous shells.



