

SCAMIT Code: HYP 44 (in part)      Date examined: 13 July 1987  
Voucher by: Leslie H. Harris (AHF)

SYNONYMY: Clymenella rubrocincta Johnson, 1901

LITERATURE: Arwidsson, 1907 (placed into unnamed new genus)  
Monro, 1937 (put into Axiothella)  
Berkeley and Berkeley, 1941 (Axiothella)  
Hartman, 1969 (Axiothella)  
Clark and Dawson, 1963 (discusses generic confusion)  
Harris, 1985 (SCAMIT Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 12)  
Imajima and Shiraki, 1982

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Nuchal organs and carina extend 2/3 length of cephalic plaque; slight lateral notches, deeper mid-dorsal notch; proboscis smooth.
2. Usually thick fold on anterior margin of setiger (pseudocollar).
3. *modified* Neuropodial uncini of first three setigers with 4 teeth above main fang, no beard; number varies with size, holotype (162 x 3.5mm) has 4 uncini in 1st setiger, 6 uncini in 2nd setiger, 7/8 uncini in 3rd setiger; another specimen (40 x 1.5mm) has 4 uncini in each of first three setigers. Neurosetae in following setigers with 5-6 teeth above main fang, beared, 12 to 24 in number.
4. Notosetae consist of bilimbate capillaries, hirsute capillaries, and simple capillaries.
5. Nephridial pores on setigers 7-8-9.
6. Specimens have 18 setigers and 2 pre-anal asetigerous segments.
7. Pygidium with callus ring and anal funnel rimmed with 18-30 filaments alternating long and short, the mid-ventral filament longest.
8. Methyl green staining pattern (Fig. 1)
  - cephalic plaque, head light.
  - presetal portions of setigers 1-8 dark, postsetal portions light; bands of setigers 4-8 darkest.
  - no color after setiger 8 except for slight traces around tori.

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

1. Axiothella rubrocincta complexa Berkeley and Berkeley, 1941: 3-4 lateral notches on each side of cephalic rim; low collar on anterior margin of 4th setiger.
2. Clymenura gracilis Hartman, 1969: Cephalic rim smooth, only mid-dorsal notch; rounded ventral projection of glandular band on setiger 8; papillated proboscis; 5-6 asetigerous pre-anal segments.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Because specimens under 0.75mm in width may only have 1-2 uncini in the first three neuropodia, A. rubrocincta is easily mistaken for other species which have acicular hooks. Great care must be taken in examination of small specimens.

REMARKS:

A. rubrocincta has been one of the commonest maldanids reported in environmental studies, occurring from the intertidal zone through canyon and basin depths. Examination of specimens, however, revealed four undescribed and three described euclymenid species misidentified under this name. In reality, A. rubrocincta is found in shallow water, rarely deeper than 20-30 meters.

DISTRIBUTION:

Western Canada through the Mexican border. Reported from intertidal, shelf, basin and canyon depths, but in central and southern California, found mostly in bays, mudflats, and shallow shelf. Recorded from Japan, 130-295 meters.

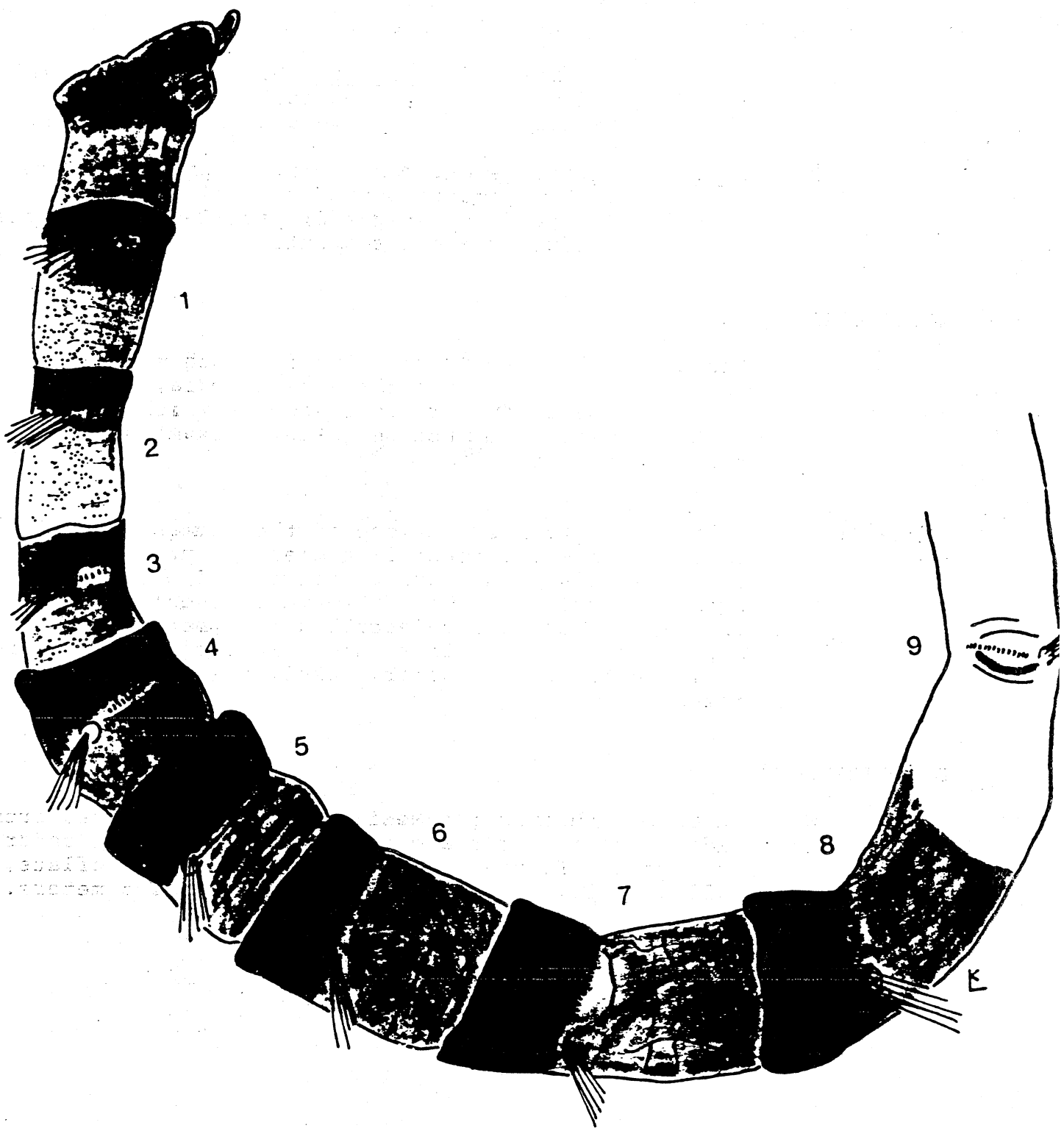


Figure 1. Axiothella rubrocincta (Johnson, 1901). Methyl green staining pattern of anterior end, lateral view.