POLYDORA nr. ARMATA Langerhans, 1880

Spionidae

Literature citation: Langerhans, P. 1880. Die Wurmfauna von Madeira. III. Zeitschr. Wissensch. Zool., 34:-87-143.

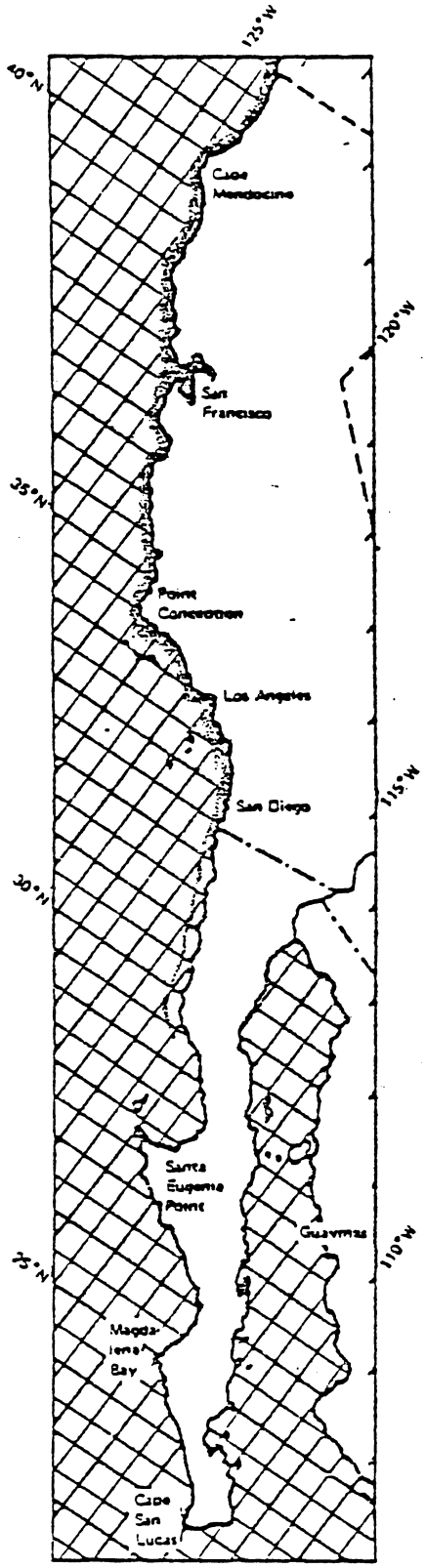
Synonymy: POLYDORA MONILARIS Ehlers, 1905

Primary diagnostic characters: Bifid prostomium; eyes absent; 2-3 capillary notosetae present on first setiger; dorsal fascicles of 2-3(4) geniculata spines on modified 5th setiger, each spine bidentate, distally curved, with teeth connected by transverse flange; no companion setae; neuropodial hooded hooks begin setiger 7, each bidentate, 3-4 per fascicle; branchiae begin setiger 7, continue to setiger 12 at most; caruncle extends to end setiger 2; pygidium disk-shape, with dorsal gap, occasionally ventral gap as well; last 8-12 notopodia with 8-12(13) thick, acicular spines in cone-shaped bundles.

Related species & character differences: P. BRACHYCEPHALA Hartman, 1936; P. CAULLERYI Mesnil, 1897; P. QUADRILOBATA Jacobi, 1883; P. ACICULATA Blake & Kudenov, 1978. See discussion under P. BRACHYCEPHALA.

Variability: The spines of the modified 5th setiger may vary considerably in appearance due to the angle of observation and degree of erosion (see Woodwick, 1964 and Blake & Kudenov, 1978, for discussion; illustrations below). There also appears to be several variations found in the arrangement of the posterior notopodia with spines as stated in the literature. The number of such notopodia ranges from 6 (Hartman, 1941), 8 (Okuda, 1937) to 8-12 (Fauvel, 1927). Acicular spines per fascicle are 8-12 (Fauvel, 1927) or 10-13 (Okuda, 1937). The fascicles are usually said to be cone-shaped (Fauvel, 1927; Hartman, 1969; Day, 1967; Blake & Kudenov, 1978), but in Japanese specimens are arranged in a half-moon (Okuda, 1937; Imajima and Hartman, 1964). The fascicles can be almost completely retracted within the notopodial lobes (Fauvel, 1927; Blake & Kudenov, 1978: small specimens) or emergent (Okuda, 1937; Hartman, 1969); if emergent, the spines may be capable of extension into stellate or funnel-shaped fascicles (Hartman, 1969; Day, 1967).

Comments: The specimens brought to the SCAMIT meeting came from the Allan Hancock Foundation collections, courtesy of Sue Williams, were originally identifed by Olga Hartman. Concerning the posterior notopodia, her 1941 description states: "Fascicles of heavy spines are present in notopodia of the last 6 segments; those in the fifth and sixth last segments are unusually conspicuous bundles; those in the last four segments are much smaller". Despite the wide range of variation noted world-wide, the differences in the southern California material seem enough to place it in a new taxa. Confirmation of this would require examination of type material and other specimens.



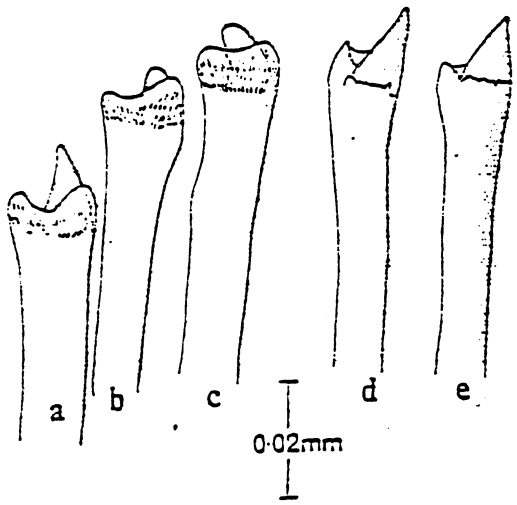
POLYDORA ARMATA Langerhans, 1880

Pertinent literature: Hartman, 1941, 1969; Imajima & Hartman, 1964; Blake & Kudenov, 1978; Woodwick, 1964; Light, 1978; Okuda, 1937.

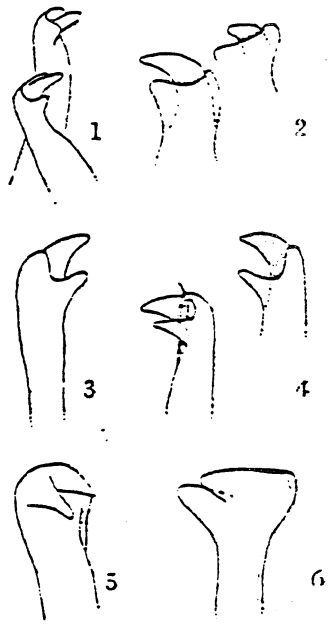
Depth range: Intertidal - shallow subtidal.

Distribution: Western Canada to western Mexico (southern end of range unstated). Considered cosmopolitan but may represent several confused species.

Ecology: Boring into coralline & calcareous growths, limestone substrates, shells, sponges and coral; forms galleries covered with tubes of fine mud (Fauvel, 1927).



major spines of setiger five
from Woodwick 1964



major spines of setiger five
from Blake and Kudenov 1978

half-moon arrangement of posterior notopodial spines
from Okuda 1937

L. Harris