

SCAMIT Code:

Date Examined: April 25, 1995

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Hyperion

Synonymy: Polycirrus sp. A Phillips
Polycirrus sp. A PSAMP (Puget Sound)

Literature: Banse, K. 1980
Holthe, T. 1986

Diagnostic characters:

1. Notosetae hirsute, at 400x hairs evident;
2. 22 - 27 pairs of notosetae;
3. short notopodial post-setal lobe present;
④ uncini start setiger 7;
5. uncinus with semicircle (7-8) of small teeth above secondary tooth;
6. peristomial pad small, slightly grooved;
7. nephridia present setigers 1-6, last three much larger than anterior three
9. methyl-green stain:
 dorsal - no stain evident
 ventral - very distinctive (figure 1)
 segment 3-4 (setiger 1-2) stain slightly lighter than segment 1 and 2 and posterior setigers
10. segment 1 and 2 form a continuous ventral central pad, no mid-ventral separation;
11. ventral pads on segments after 1 and 2 have a smooth appearance, are solidly stained between parapodia for next 6-10 segments before becoming reduced in size, pads do not show a tumid appearance, and are not visibly separated by a deep mid-ventral groove or central pad;
12. first notopodia reduced in relation to other notopodia
13. body very linear in appearance

Related species (found in SCBPP) and differences :

Polycirrus californicus - notopodia all large, with pronounced post-setal lobe; uncini start setiger 8; peristomial pad large, deeply grooved; ventral stain pattern different (see Banse 1980), deep ventral groove starting setiger 2, small stained central pad present; ventral pads tumid, becoming strongly separated by setiger 7 by a non-stained central pad.

Polycirrus sp. Type I Banse - dorsal stain pattern evident around notopodia, not present on central dorsum; ventral stain pattern with paired ventral pads, becoming reticulated by setiger 4, separated by narrow non-stained midventral area (Figure 2); 9-11 pairs of notosetae; plumose notosetae present; no thoracic uncini present.

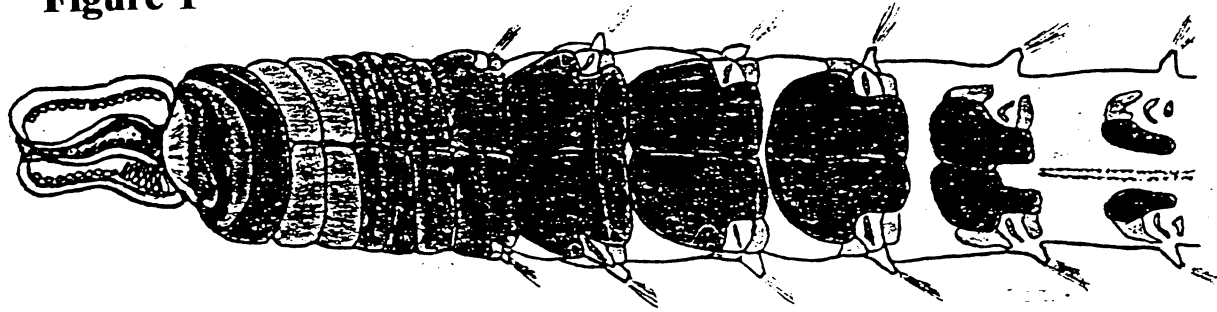
Polycirrus sp. Type V Banse - dorsal stain pattern reveals rugose bands transversing the dorsum for first 5-6 setigers; notopodia without post-setal lobes

Depth Range: 45 - 153 meters

Distribution: Southern California Bight - Santa Monica Bay to San Diego; Puget Sound

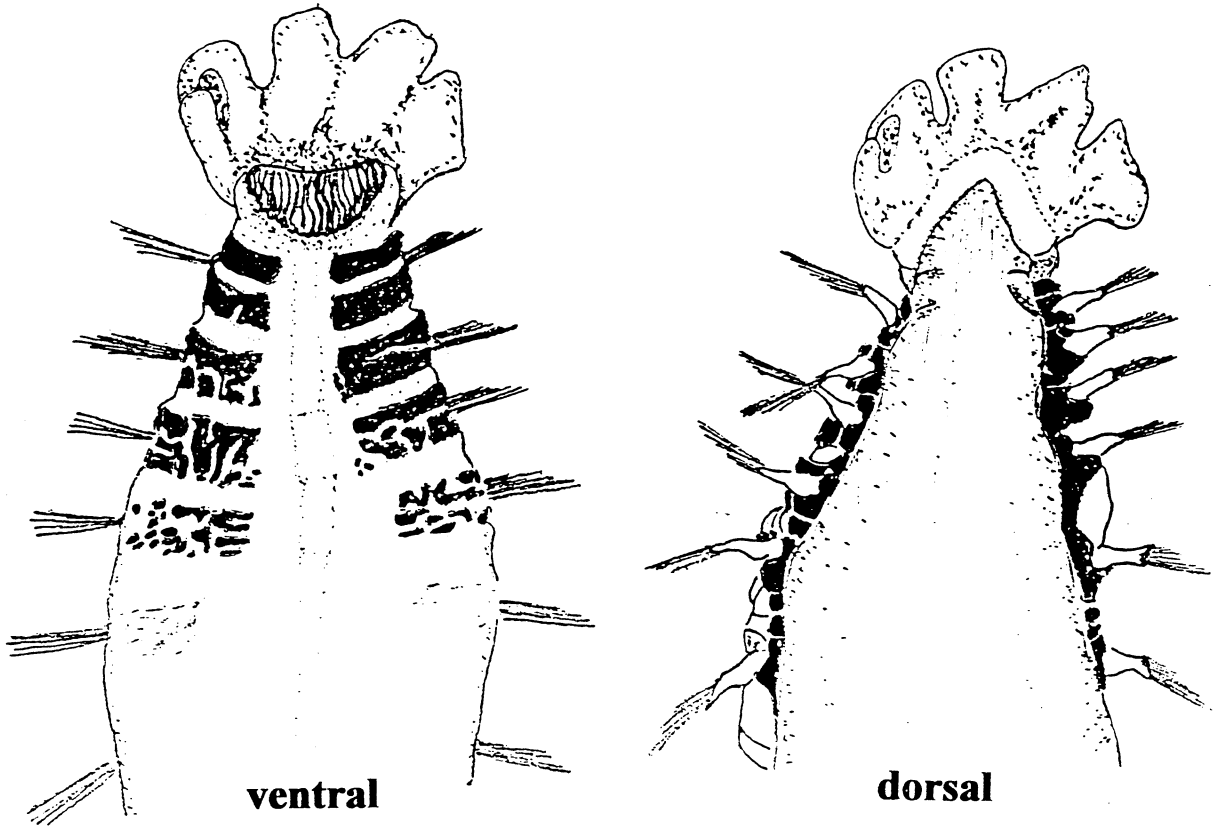
Remarks: A similar species to Polycirrus sp. A has appeared in some SCBPP samples from Santa Monica Bay. A cursory examination of the beast would result in a P. sp. A identification. The stain pattern and overall linear appearance is very similar (Figure 1), the notosetae are hirsute, and the first thoracic uncini appear on setiger 7. The uncini are similar. Several differences are detected upon closer examination. There is a distinct segment 2, separate from segment 1. There is no mid-ventral groove on this segment. The stain pattern is almost the opposite of P. sp. A. Segment 3 and 4 are darker than segment 2 and posterior segments. Segment 1 is as dark as segment 3 and 4. Only 17 - 19 pairs of notosetae are found. These animals are larger than the specimens of P. sp. A.

Figure 1



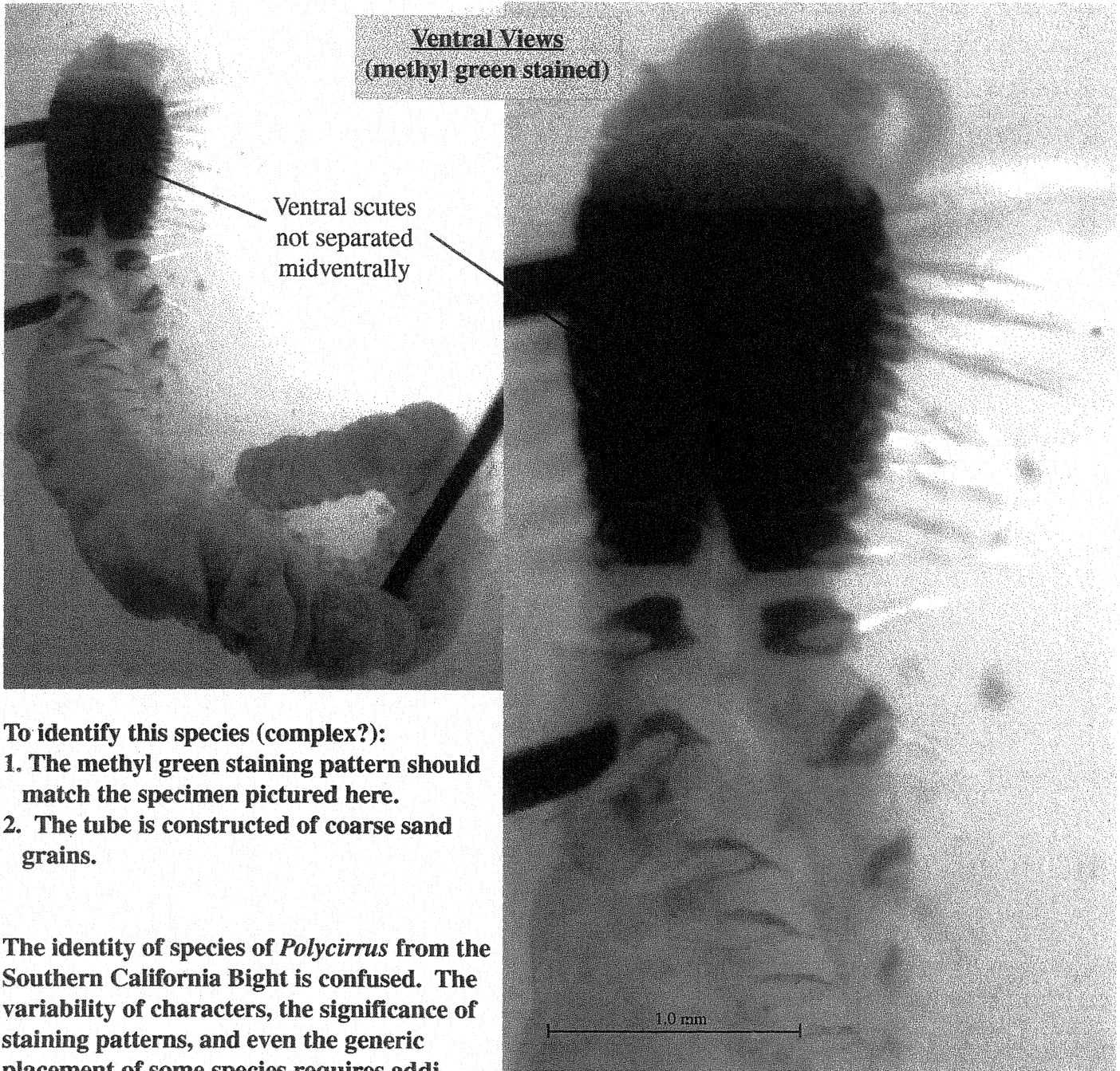
ventral

Figure 2



ventral

dorsal



Ventral Views
(methyl green stained)

Ventral scutes
not separated
midventrally

- To identify this species (complex?):**
- 1. The methyl green staining pattern should match the specimen pictured here.**
 - 2. The tube is constructed of coarse sand grains.**

The identity of species of *Polycirrus* from the Southern California Bight is confused. The variability of characters, the significance of staining patterns, and even the generic placement of some species requires additional clarification.