GENERIC LEVEL ID KEY FOR SCBPP AMPHIURIDS

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1a. disk cap present 2
b. disk cap absent 7

2a. disk cap scales ornamented either dorsally, ventrally, or both 3
b. disk cap scales unornamented, not bearing spines or granules 4

3a. disk cap scales granulated ventrally ..... *Amphichondrius*
b. disk cap scales bearing spines both dorsally and ventrally ..... *Dougaloplus*

4a. buccal scale present on jaws 5
b. buccal scale lacking 6

5a. both buccal scale and oral plate papillae present ..... *Amphioplus*
b. oral plate papillae absent, adoral shield spines displaced ventrally to the face of the jaw ..... *Amphiura*

6a. oral papillae subequal in size ..... *Amphiodia*
b. adoral shield spine much larger than other oral papillae ..... *Amphipholis*

7a. 4 oral papillae on the edge of each jaw, and two ventral on its face ..... *Amphiura*
b. 6 or more oral papillae on the edge of each jaw 8

8a. jaws with buccal scale 9
b. jaws lacking buccal scale 10

9a. adoral shield spine tapering, acute, much longer than oral plate papilla ..... *Dougaloplus*
b. adoral shield spine quadrangular, blunt, subequal to oral plate papilla ..... *Amphioplus*

10a. adoral shield spine larger than oral plate papilla 11
b. adoral shield spine subequal to oral plate papilla ..... *Amphiodia*

11a. distal tentacle scale <or= to proximal on first few arm segments ..... *Amphipholis**
b. distal tentacle scale much larger than proximal on first few segments ... *Amphichondrius**

*= This will not work with *Amphichondius laevis*, a southern species occuring as far north as Catalina Isl. If a specimen keys to *Amphipholis*, but has the distal oral papilla less than 2x the width of the oral plate papilla, you have *Amphichondrius laevis* and not *Amphipholis* sp.

Note: this key is intended to standardize separatory characters used in processing of SCBPP benthic samples. It can not be reliably applied outside the Southern California Bight, or in other than benthic soft sediment habitats (ie. intertidal collections). If a specimen cannot be definitely placed in one of the generic level taxa because of it's condition **IT SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED ONLY TO FAMILY LEVEL.** Individual taxonomists may be able to identify such specimens to genus or species level based on their experience or presence of a series of comparative specimens. Even if this is possible the reported identification should be based only on the above key.