

Species: *Zygonemertes virescens*

NODC # 4306050302

Describer: (Verrill), 1879

---

7. Characters:

- ① Mouth and proboscis pore united, subterminal. Proboscis armed.
  - ② Cephalic furrows absent; caudicle absent.
  - ③ Body green, sometimes with purple cast. Juveniles white, pale yellow.
  - ④ Ocelli extend behind brain along lateral nerve cords.
- 

Description: Live: 5-40 mm length; 0.5-2.0 mm width (Pacific Coast).

Body slender, rather depressed. Head is somewhat wider than body, with 2 prs of oblique lateral grooves. Anterior pr is half-way between brain and tip of head. Posterior pr is adjacent to brain. Color - juveniles are milky white. Adults are yellowish, pink, orange, pale brown, reddish brown, greenish brown, dark olive green or brick red. Color is environment-related.

Ocelli present - 100 or more, forming two double or tripl. rows anterior to brain and a single row along each lateral nerve cord. Ocelli are black or brown, sometimes red or violet in reddish individuals. Cerebral sense organs large, immediately before brain. A terminal sense organ located above proboscis pore.

Proboscis sheath extends length of body. Stylet slender, sharply pointed. Basis large, cylindrical ~ 4x as long as wide and 1½-2 x stylet length. Often with lobulated posterior end. With 2 pouches of 3 accessory stylets. Rhabdites present in epithelium.

Preserved - brown worms often turn green in formalin; white or yellowish worms also take greenish tint. [4] [A]

---

Habitat: Intertidal & subtidal under rocks, among algae, mussels, etc. Frequently very common. [4]

Range: New England; British Columbia, Puget Sound, Monterey, San Diego, Ensenada. [4]

---

Comments: Juveniles very similar to *Z. albida*. Synonymy seems likely. I have called all S. Cal. specimens *Z. virescens* because of complete series between the two types.

---

Type Specimens:

used:

- Mussel Bed Survey 1977-78.
- Harbor Unstable Substrate Survey 1976, 1977, 1978
- Harbor Stable Substrate Survey 1975.

*...rescens* Verrill, 1879

1879 - original description

1897 - genus change

1900 - monograph

1910 - revision

