

Date Examined: 7 August 2011
Voucher By: Tony Phillips

SYNONYMY: None

LITERATURE:

- Bernhardt, P. 1979. A key to the Nemertea from the intertidal zone of the coast of California. (Unpublished)..
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- Crandall, F.B. & J.L. Norenburg. 2001. Checklist of the Nemertean Fauna of the United States. Nemertes (<http://nemertes.si.edu>). Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.D. pp. 1-36.
- Crandall, F.B. et al. 2002. Checklist of the Nemertean Fauna of Japan and Northeastern Asia. Nemertes (<http://nemertes.si.edu>). Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.D. pp. 1-44.
- Kajihara, H. 2007. A Taxonomic Catalogue of Japanese Nemerteans (Phylum Nemertea). Zoological Science, 24: 287-326.
- Roe, P., J.L. Norenburg and S. Maslakova. 2007. Nemertea. In The Light and Smith Manual. Intertidal Invertebrates from Central California to Oregon. Pp. 221-233.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Body elongate, anterior rounded, wider than mid – posterior, posterior slender and pointed; dorsal color yellowish-green to bright green, lateral anterior of head region can be creme, lateral edges of body being crème that extends into ventrum.
2. Proboscis sheath extends approximately 30% length of body, proboscis papillated
3. Basis approximately 3-4X in length to stylet (s/b ratio 0.23 – 0.37); basis narrow cylindrical shape with slightly expanded base, point of stylet attachment to basis indistinct, no accessory pouches observed, but reported to have 5-7 accessory stylets (Coe 1940).
4. Eyes not visible when not cleared; cleared specimens with two groups of black eyes; an anterior, elongated cluster of eyes on anterior edge of head of 7 – 12 eyes. Just posterior to the anterior rows are a second pair of circular clustered eyes that have 6 – 9 eyes, anterior to cephalic groove.
5. Size of specimens examined 4 – 45 mm.

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

The bright green dorsal coloration, with the crème lateral sides and ventrum make this species very distinctive. The elongate body helps to differentiate *Emplectonema gracile* from *Zygonemertes virescens* which is a more stout, thickened grayish-green species. The difference in eye pattern and proboscideal armature also help differentiate these two species. A second species of *Emplectonema*, *E. buergeri* (Coe 1901), is found north of Monterey to Alaska. This species can be differentiated from *E. gracile* by its dorsal coloration (reddish-brown to purple) and if present, by its spiral stylet.

DEPTH RANGE: Intertidal – 15 meters

DISTRIBUTION: British Columbia to Ensenada, Mexico; Japan; Europe to Mediterranean

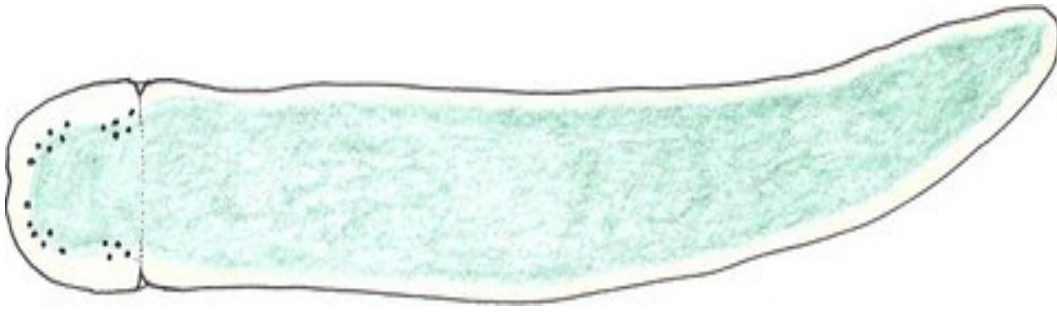


Figure 1. *Emplectoma gracile* (cleared)