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**Southern California Association of
Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists**

3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California 90731



August 1984

Vol. 3, No. 5

Next Meeting:	September 9, 1984
Place:	Cabrillo Marine Museum 3720 Stephen White Drive San Pedro, CA 90731
Specimen Exchange Group:	Oediceratidae and Lijeborgiidae
Topic Taxonomic Group:	Ctenodrilidae, Flabelligeridae, Scalibregmidae
Literature Request:	Bring in literature used to identify Ctenodrilidae, Flabelligeridae, Scalibregmidae

MINUTES FROM August 13, 1984

Chevron Pledges Support : Chevron has pledged \$2500 to support SCAMIT's activities. Chevron has also contacted other members of the oil industry, recommending that they too give financial assistance to SCAMIT. Many thanks to Chevron for their support.

Annual Picnic A Success: A beautiful day, combined with great food and company, made SCAMIT's picnic a gold medal day. Special thanks to Dan Ituarte and co-workers at Pt. Loma for their efforts in organizing the event.

Employment Opportunity: Richard Brusca, Associate Curator of Crustacea at Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, will be hiring a curatorial assistant in the near future. A background in amphipod taxonomy is preferred. The salary of this position will be \$18,000-20,000. Anyone interested should call 213-744-3411.

Taxonomic Library Grows: Leslie Harris, participating member of SCAMIT, has made a provisional loan of a large collection of taxonomic literature to SCAMIT. The collection will be housed at Cabrillo Marine Museum. Our thanks to Leslie.

Voucher Collection Missing Specimens: We are in the process of organizing the voucher collection. Some of the specimens used in past workshops were not deposited in the collection. Participating members are urged to return any voucher specimens.

Travels with Olga:
London S.W.7, England
17 July 1939

Dear Albert: I was very happy to get your several letters when I arrived today at the British Museum. England seemed not quite so far away, on reading them. You may be right about the meteor situation. At any rate, do as you wish about the matter. The picture of the twins is very nice.

How shall I begin to tell you about this magnificent city, London. I have just returned, (9:30 PM) from a trip in, spurred in by a note from my new "Landlady" for rent (tariff) in advance. I am furnished with American dollars, but they are no exchange in England. Wanted to see the American Express agent, on Haymarket, but found the office closed. Instead I explored the vicinity of Haymarket. There is Piccadilly Circle, Trafalgar Square (Nelson's statue) a short distance away, the Pall Mall, leading to Buckingham Palace, St. James' Palace not far off, famous Whitehall, with Westminster Abbey, great Scotland Yard, and many other world-famous places, all of which I saw within an hour of walking. Here in England one walks and walks. There is always the expectation that just around the corner awaits another surprise.

I stayed 2 days in Cromwell Hotel. It was both expensive and not too comfortable. I am always confused on prices. When I hear a quotation, 3 1/2 guineas, I am not sure whether I should ask by the week, day or month. First I must transcribe it to American \$\$, then compare with expected rates. 3 1/2 guineas happens to be about \$18. That was for a week, including breakfast and dinner. Still too high for me. Also dinner from 7 to 8 PM. Now I am in a "flatlet" (really just a room with running water) the same distance from the museum, and it is "1 pound 10" a week, with breakfast. That, by the way is about \$7.50 a week. I believe everyone charges extra for electric lights. They certainly do for heat. In spite of my difficulties I am finding it all very interesting.

Met Monro today, long one of my correspondents in the Polychaeta. He has fitted up a very fine laboratory for me in the British Mus. and has been very cordial. We have spent most of the day talking. It was a relief, after all of our paper "talks" during the past few years. I won't bother you with any of that, for polychaetes do not interest you. However, as usual in Europe, our conversation turned several times to War. There is no escaping it here. Everywhere there are signs of preparedness, and wholesale recruiting. I thought first of all of the world's most superb collections, the British museum, and said, what if that, where will all this be stored. The collections



may square miles of floor space, and could not possibly be moved without much damage. Monro said the plans are to move nothing, save perhaps some mineral collections which would not be damaged in transit. Everything else must stand the risk. They have weekly drills now for fire fighting, and special precautionary apparatus is being installed. Sad, sad world. What a pity that we should come to this stage in "civilization". As to the staff itself, if war comes, work stops immediately. They are given a fortnight to put things away, and then are apportioned, like parcels, to war offices.

I now do believe that Britain is prepared, but who is ever adequately prepared for what war brings?

"Street musicians" are common sights in London. A fiddler standing in the middle of a busy intersection, holding out the hat, organ grinders (assuming to be musicians) grinding it out fitfully, dependent perhaps on the pennies offered.

A word on our "pennies". They are big, coppery bronze, nearly as large as the American half, but not so heavy. One needs them everywhere. They are worth two cents of our money. The half penny (larger than our penny) is worth 1 cent and is nearly as common. A farthing (1/2 cent) is not made anymore. Street car, bus or subway fares range from "haypence" (1/2 penny) to 3 or more pennies, depending on how far you go. There are no transfers. You must know just where you are going. The same applies to all British Isle. All of the cities are zoned, hence the W, SW, EC or other letters after a street name. These are zone letters, just as if it were a burrough or similar division.

Working hours at the Br. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) are rather limited, from 10 AM to 5 PM, and no night work. I was prepared for that, however, for no European institutions are open at night. Europeans have learned how to enjoy leisure. I know I have not. Also, they have learned how to eat, which I have not. I am no more enthusiastic now for anchovies, caviar, Roquefort cheese, savory bits, sweets and all of the other delicacies than I was before I ever experienced them. The tables of the Elisabeth Bakke had no end of them, but I enjoyed only the looking at them. I did not like Roe patties one day, but could have enjoyed something much plainer quite as well. Spiced herring I like not at all, and goat's cheese might just as well remain at the other end of the table. People have been said to cross oceans for it.

This is very illegible. Have been writing it while lying in bed. Hope it won't discourage you.

Thank you for promising to keep up the correspondence. If I happen to get lazy, do not think ill of me. You see, I must be constantly on the verge of adjustment, and I know that my American "brogue" is often quite as unintelligent to the Britisher, as his speech is to me. And to "Fall in line", it may sometimes take me 2 or 3 times as long as it would the average citizen, as, for example, when I need to take a subway to get to a particular place. But local color is what makes a city what it is.

Greetings to you all from the world's capitol.



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SCOWRP KEYS TO INVERTEBRATES

Invertebrates of Southern California Coastal Waters Vol. I. Select Groups of Annelids, Arthropods, Echinoderms, and Mollusks. J.Q. Word and D.K. Charwat eds. 1975. ()

Vol. II. Natantia. J.Q. Word and D.K. Charwat. 1976. ()

Price: \$6.00 plus \$2.50 postage each

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail to: Ann Martin
Biology Laboratory
Hyperion Treatment Plant
12000 Vista del Mar
Playa del Rey, Ca. 90291

1984-85 Membership Renewal Application

It is time to begin renewing memberships. SCAMIT is beginning its third year in April. You may begin renewing now. Your membership expires 12 months after the date indicated on your mailing lable. Notices will be given to those with expired memberships on the proper month.

Type of Membership:

Participating, \$15.00 per year

Correspondant, \$15.00 per year

Institutional, \$60.00 per year

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Area of Expertise _____

Would you like to be on SCAMIT's list of people who do free-lance work? yes _____
no _____

Mail to: Ann Martin
Biology Laboratory
Hyperion Treatment Plant
12000 Vista del Mar
Playa del Rey, Ca. 90291

Provisional Species of Tharyx (Polychaeta, Cirratulidae)

John H. Dorsey

Biology Laboratory, Hyperion Treatment Plant

During our monitoring studies in Santa Monica Bay, we frequently encounter species that we are unable to identify. These organisms are either: 1) not in the taxonomical literature from the region; 2) are members of groups whose taxonomy is poorly understood; or, 3) represent undescribed species. If such a species is collected repeatedly, then we assign it a provisional designation until its identity can be resolved.

In this account, we have presented three species of Tharyx that we commonly encounter from sediment samples taken in Santa Monica Bay. By giving a brief description of each species, we hope that our provisional designation will be adopted by other taxonomists, and hopefully, specific names can be determined in the near future.

This presentation represents the first of a series from the biologists at the Hyperion Treatment Plant. Our aim is eventually to present all our provisional species to members of SCAMIT through these written accounts. We urge other members to follow this path to help standardize the many provisional species currently residing in our collections.

PROVISIONAL SPECIES

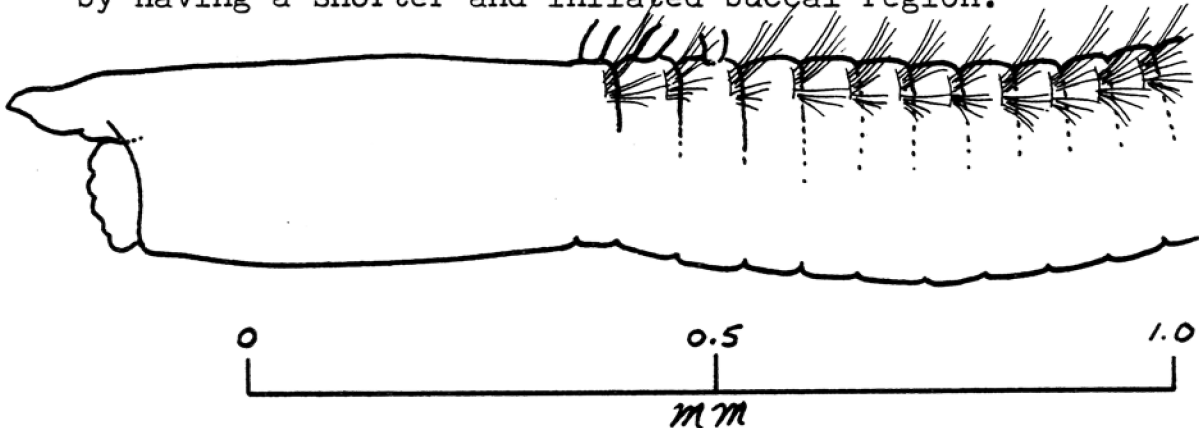
Tharyx sp. A (sensu Hyperion Treatment Plant)

Description:

1. Body long, thread-like.
2. Prostomium small, pointed, triangular, without eyes.
3. Buccal region elongated, dorsal and ventral margins nearly parallel.
4. Ratio of buccal length (tip of prostomium to first setiger) to width around 2.
5. Staining pattern in methyl green:
 - a) prostomium, buccal region and first few segments very lightly stained to none at all;
 - b) posterior half of thorax (around Set. 7-14) with dark stain on ventrum;
 - c) remaining segments with uniform light stain.
6. Posterior end inflated.
7. All setae smooth capillaries.
8. Length of thoracic notosetae less than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of thorax.

Remarks:

Tharyx monilaris Hartman 1960 also has a long, thread-like body with an inflated posterior end, but it differs from Tharyx sp. A by having a shorter and inflated buccal region.



PROVISIONAL SPECIES

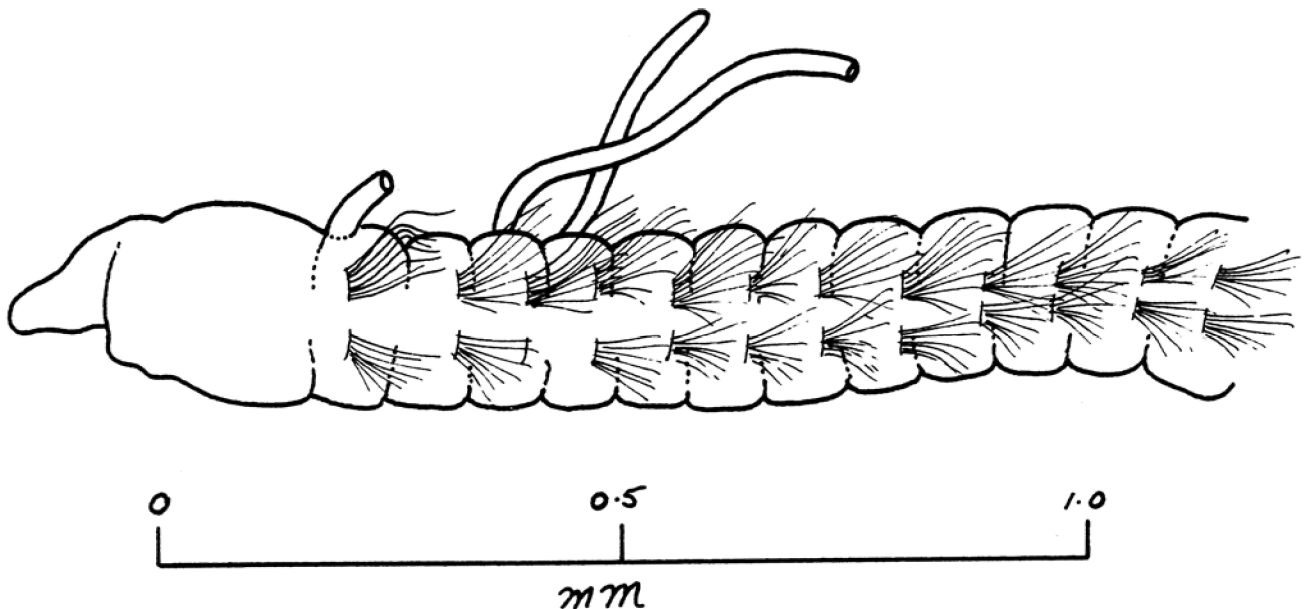
Tharyx sp. B (sensu Hyperion Treatment Plant)

Description:

1. Body long, thread-like.
2. Prostomium large, pointed, $\frac{1}{2}$ length of buccal area, eyeless.
3. Ratio of buccal length (tip of prostomium to first setiger) to width about 1.5.
4. Staining pattern in methyl green uniform over entire body.
5. Posterior end unknown.
6. All capillary setae smooth.
7. Length of thoracic notosetae nearly width of thorax.

Remarks:

Tharyx sp. A and B both have similar sized bodies, but the shape and proportions of the buccal areas, length of setae and staining patterns differ.



PROVISIONAL SPECIES

Tharyx sp. C (sensu Hyperion Treatment Plant)

Description:

1. Body robust, around 2 mm in width anteriorly.
2. Prostomium conical, about $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the buccal segment.
3. Ratio of buccal length (tip of prostomium to first setiger) to width about 1.
4. Thoracic region with very short segments, becoming longer further back.
5. Staining pattern (methyl green) uniform along entire body.
6. Posterior end inflated.
7. Length of thoracic notosetae longer than width of thorax, silk-like in appearance.
8. All capillary setae smooth.

Remarks:

This species differs from Tharyx sp. A and B by being larger in size, having longer thorac setae, and relatively smaller anterior segments. Tharyx sp. C is similar to T. tesselata Hartman 1960 except the latter has serrated capillary setae in posterior segments.

