Ophryotrocha sp. A SCAMIT
Dorvilleidae

SCAMIT Code: LACO 79
Date Examined: 13 July 1987
Voucher by: David E. Montagne (LACO)

SYNONOMY: Dorvilleidae sp. A Montagne

LITERATURE: SCAMIT Newsletter 2 (3), 1983

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Typical specimen 5mm long, 0.8mm wide, excluding parapodia, has 34 setigers.

2. Prostomium eyeless, shorter than wide, broadly rounded anteriorly; prostomial tentacles short, tumid cirri; palps articulated, insert ventro-laterally; digitate palpostyle short, one-half length of palpophore.

3. Mandibles well chitinized, lie in contact with one another, not fused; distally each mandible flares into lateral, toothed wing.

4. Maxillary apparatus in full development a K-type with large "ice-tong" shaped forceps; maxilla I with posteriorly directed process extending to forceps base.

5. Setigerous segments bear well developed parapodia and large dorsal and ventral lateral lobes; dorsal lobes large, flat disc-shaped structures; the ventral segmental lobes are tumid cones.

6. Parapodia uniramous, bearing a dorsal cirrus, acicular lobe, setal lobe, and ventral cirrus; setae long simple falcigers and heterogomph falcigers.

7. The pygidium wider than long, with two digitiform anal cirri; there is no medial palpode.

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

Ophryptrocha sp. A is most quickly distinguished from other Ophryotrocha by the presence of the large discoid dorsal lobes on the setigerous segments.
DISTRIBUTION:

Species A is known from two sites in southern California, where it occurs sympatrically with spp. B and C in 60m depths around the termini of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Whites Point outfalls, and in 95m depths around the terminus of the city of Los Angeles' 7 mile sludge line, discharging at the head of Santa Monica Canyon. It has also been collected in Howe Sound, British Columbia, at a site receiving pulp mill wastes in 20m of water where it co-occurs with a closely related undescribed species (O. sp. D of Montagne).

COMMENTS: Ophryotrocha sp. A, B, C and D all appear to be confined to habitats characterized by highly organic sediments with high hydrogen sulfide concentrations.