Characters:

- Inner ramal cirri begin on setiger 3 (a)
- Anterior end unpigmented except sometimes with 'spread eagle' pattern on posterior of head (b).
- Proboscis without a subdistal unpaired cirrus, but with a distal unpaired cirrus (c). There are 22 rows of subdistal papillae with 5 to 8 per row.
- No apparent Methyl Green staining pattern

Additional Information:

Habitat: sandy beaches to 330 m depth (Hilbig, 1997)
Distribution: Mexico to California, Yellow Sea and Japan (Hilbig, 1997).

Similar Species:

*Nephtys caecoides* - Inner ramal cirri begin on setiger 4, proboscis with a subdistal unpaired papilla
*Nephtys ferruginea* - subdistal unpaired papilla present, middorsal distal papilla absent (see *N. ferruginea* voucher sheet), ribbed pigment pattern on dorsum, and methyl green stains around the mouth.

Comments:

We get all three species (*N. ferruginea*, *N. caecoides* and *N. californiensis*). Unpigmented specimens with inner ramal cirri starting on setiger 3 should be examined for proboscidial papillae arrangement or methyl green stain.
References:


Voucher Specimens

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