Characters:

- Inner ramal cirri begin on setiger 3 (a), first inner ramal cirri are small and difficult to see on juvenile specimens.
- Dorsum pigmented with ribbed pattern (may fade in alcohol) (b)
- Brain and nerve tissue stain dark with Methyl Green which is visible through the prostomium and dorsum (b)
- Methyl Green stains the ventrum around the mouth (c)
- Proboscis has a mid-dorsal subdistal unpaired papilla which is about twice as long as the other subdistal papillae. There are 22 pairs of subdistal papillae and 3-6 papillae per row (d).

Additional Information:

Range: mud and clay from 20 to 450 m depth.
Distribution: British Columbia to Peru.

(Hilbig 1997)

Similar Species:

Nephtys caecoides - Inner ramal cirri begin on setiger 4, no ribbed pigment pattern on dorsum
Nephtys californiensis - no subdistal unpaired papilla, middorsal distal papilla present (see N. californiensis voucher sheet), no ribbed pigment pattern on dorsum.
**Nephtys ferruginea** (continued)

**Comments:**
We get all three species (*N. ferruginea*, *N. caecoides* and *N. californiensis*). Unpigmented specimens with interramal cirri starting on setiger 3 should be examined for Methyl Green stain and proboscial papillae arrangement.

**References:**


**Voucher Specimens**

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**Revision History:**