Characters:
• Prostomium terminates in an acute point (a and b)
• Neurosetae are capillary with very slight serrations (visible only under oil emersion (100x) examination)
• Dark methyl green staining of prostomium and peristomium only, sometimes ventrum of thorax will stain lightly (no abdominal staining) - stain on prostomium even except for light stain on the anterior tip of the prostomium and an “eye patch”-like area (a and b)
• Vental groove sometimes present (if not present, represented by a white, ventral stripe)

Additional Information:
Pygidium is slightly inflated. Sometimes there is orange pigment on the branchiae and the ventrum of the thoracic segments.

DISTRIBUTION: Northern to Southern California
HABITAT: Intertidal to shallow subtidal, in mud or muddy sand bottoms

Related Species:
*Aphelochaeta glandaria* - very similar to Blake’s description of *A. petersenae* species; however, there is a definite staining pattern on the head region of *A. petersenae*.

References: