Brada pluribranchiata (Moore, 1923)  
Flabelligeridae

SCAMIT Code: AHF24  
Date examined: September 10, 1984

Synonymy:
Stzjlaroides pluribranchiata Moore, 1923

Literature:
- Hartman, 1969;
- Uschakov, 1955;
- Pettibone, 1954;
- Moore, 1923;

Diagnostic characters:
All setae simple; neurosetae acicular, distally pointed with the tip drawn out as a slender filament. Branchial membrane short, rounded, with 60-70 pairs of branchiae. Noto setae of first setiger project forward, appear to be a sparse cephalic cage. Dorsal papillae broadly tubercular, terminating in filiform tip, arranged in 4-5 longitudinal rows; ventral papillae the same but smaller. Neuropodia of only 1-2 long, tiny, slender papillae. Nephridial papillae on fifth setiger, on ventrum. Bumpy appearance, greyish yellow to gold in color. When contracted the segments are very tightly folded together, so what appears to be 1 segment with 8-10 or more large dorsal papillae is actually 2 or 3 segments.

Related species and character differences:
Brada sachalina Annenkova, 1922 also has large tuberculate papillae with filiform tip, but only in 2-3 transverse rows in median segments, also only 21-22 segments.

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Fig. 1 Ventral papilla, X50

Fig. 2 Dorsal papilla, X50

Fig. 3 Notopodial papilla, X1200
Fig. 1, 2, 3 from Hartman, 1969
Brada pluribranchiata (Moore, 1923)

Distribution:
Hartman, 1969: Southern California, in deep slopes and canyons, in 123-1400m; in black sand and mud.
Hartman, 1963: Monterey Canyon through Catalina Canyon, 88-431m.
Fauchald, 1972: Southern California in deep slope and canyon depths; present records are from similar depths off Cedros Island, Baja California.

Comments:
This species was synonymized with B. villosa by Pettibone (1954) along with several others on the basis of extreme variability in the amount of papillae and sand incrustation. In the original description Moore says: "Parapodia consist of small flat notopodial and neuropodial papillae, the former about three times the diameter and height of the latter, placed close together on the sides of the segments." Specimens seen have the opposite arrangement—small notopodia and large notopodia.

Fig. 4 Median setiger, dorsal view: 4 transverse rows of papillae in 4-5 longitudinal rows

Fig. 5 Median setiger, lateral view

Fig. 6 Brada sachalina, entire organism and dorsal papillae (Ushakov, 1955)