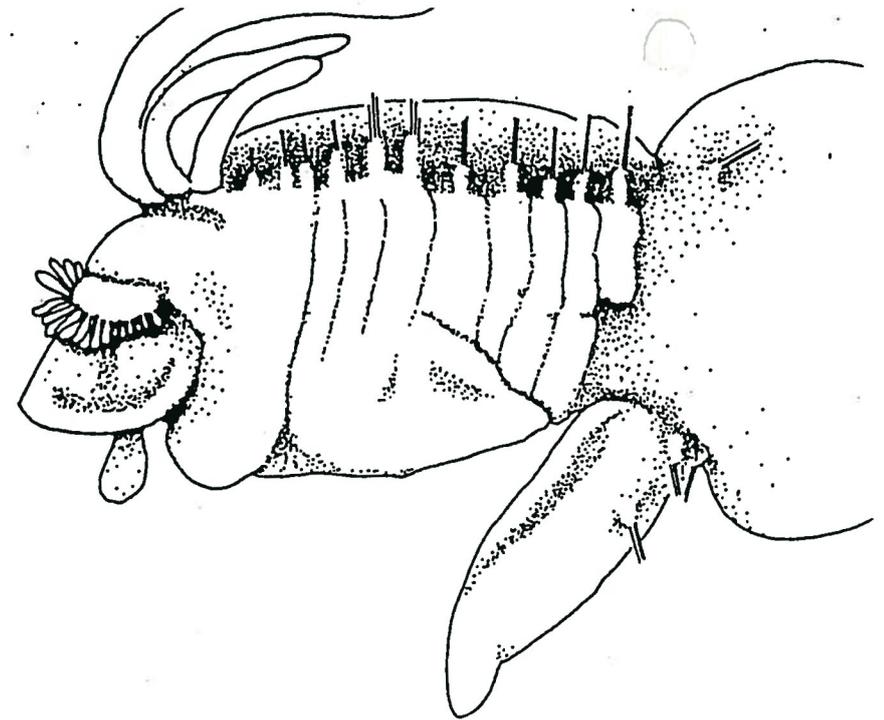


A NON-TUBICOLOUS AMPHARETID?

Material: Bioshelf stn C11 BC 9°17'N 98°02.996'E, 39.4 m, Andaman Sea, muddy sand with shell fragments. 1 specimen, complete.

Description: Body very short and thick, 5 mm long.

Prostomium rounded, slightly folded with large nuchal arches with numerous papillae. One large, smooth club-shaped tentacle protruding from the mouth. Three pairs of smooth branchiae arranged in one transverse row. Very narrow space between right and left branchiae. Branchial bases hardly discernible. Thorax firm and clearly segmented laterally with eleven pairs of notopodia bearing capillary chaetae. Ventrally there is a keel-shaped shield running from second segment to 10th chaetigerous segment. No neuropodia. Anterior part of abdomen soft, inflated, posterior part firmer, tapering with four pairs of notopodia with capillary chaetae, no neuropodia. Pygidium rounded without appendages.



Remarks: The animal is clearly an ampharetid, and seems to belong to the subfamily Ampharetinae. It bears no resemblance to any known ampharetid. The unusual shape, the lack of ventral glands and uncini suggest that this animal is non-tubicolous. Terebellomorphs without tubes are found in the related family Terebellidae, e.g. *Lysilla* Malmgren, 1866 and *Hauchiella* Levinsen, 1893. Of these the former lacks uncini, the latter is completely without chaetae. Observations on live *Lysilla loveni* Malmgren, 1866 show that this species moves through soft sediment by peristalsis. Nuchal organs are quite common among the Ampharetidae, but no other species has papillae. The inflation of the abdomen could be an artefact caused by sampling and fixation. The presence of one large tentacle is known in *Amythasides macroglossus* Eliason, 1955 in the Ampharetinae, and in several species among the Melinninae. There is no observation on how the species lives, it is only possible to deduce from its morphology that it is free living in the muddy sediment.

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