
March 1996

Examined by T. Parker

Literature: Fauchald, K. 1977. The polychaete worms. Definitions and keys to the Orders, Families, and Genera. Science Series 28. LACMNH. 188pp

Banse, K. 1979. Ampharetidae (Polychaeta) from British Columbia and Washington. Can. Journ. Zool. (57):1543-1552 pp.

Synonymy: *Sosanopsis* sp. A Phillips
Sosanopsis sp. 1 Phillips

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Four pair branchia, first three pair inserted above first notopodia in transverse row. Last pair posterior to this row and above second notopodia. (Figure 1). Branchia delicately wrinkled. Under compound scope, branchia annulated with encircling cilia band along length (Figure 2a & 2b).
2. Eyes absent, palea absent.
3. Lower lip slightly crenulate. Buccal tentacles smooth.
4. Twelve pair thoracic uncinigers, uncini start setiger 4.
5. Fifteen pair thoracic setigers. Methylene blue stain restricted. No stain on dorsum posterior to branchia. Prostomium with patch on posterior region. Stain bars on ventrum of first 10-12 thoracic setigers only. No stain posterior to setiger 12.
6. Notopodia and notosetae modified in 13th setiger (10th uncinger) so that notopodia is elevated, setae expanded into fascicle with fleshy lobe between notosetae and uncini (Figure 3a&b). These setae bilimbate without hirsute tips. Dorsal ridge between this pair absent.
7. Thirteen pair of abdominal setigers with one pair of pygidial cirri.

Related species and Differences:

Sosane occidentalis: has similar modified notopodia on setiger 13 but with hirsute setae, is listed as possessing moderately developed palea and transverse branchia insertion.

Sosanides: setiger 11 with modified notosetae.

Anobothrus gracilis: setiger 10 has slightly modified notopodia and notosetae.

Sosanopsis hesslei: dorsal ridge present on modified setiger and also somewhat broader ridge on preceding setiger. Thirteen abdominal uncinigers.

Sosanopsis wireni: lacks dorsal notopodial ridge and has only 11 abdominal uncinigers.

Distribution: Santa Monica Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula in silt at 150 meters.

Comments: Fauchald's 77 key incorrectly stated the generic definition for *Sosanopsis*. Banse 1979 corrected this error. The diagnosis between the genera *Sosane* and *Sosanopsis* is based upon transverse vs non-transverse branchial insertion and presence of palea.



Figure 1. 4th branchial pair posterior to transverse row branchia



Figure 2a. wrinkled branchial surface

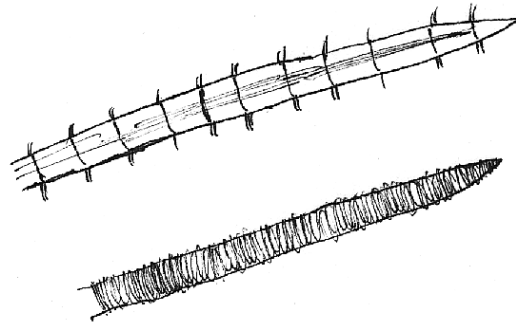


Figure 2b. branchial surface, above 200x



Figure 3a. anterior view,

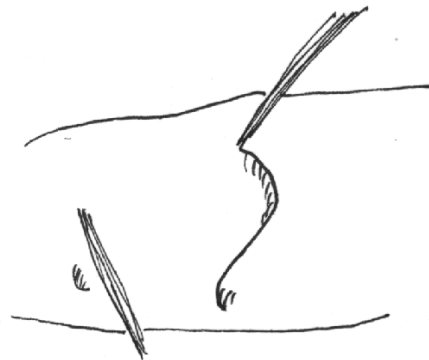


Figure 3b. lateral view, modified 13th parapodia