Taxonomic Notes on the Most Common Sea Anemones Found off Point Loma

Anemonactis sp
cream to white colored anemone
tentacles 12 (or more?) with bluish-purple spot at base of each
12 perfect mesenteries along entire length of column
column with thick wrinkled appearance (except in smaller specimens) without sediment

Ceriantharia (=Cerianthidae & Cerianthus sp of Point Loma)
typically tan, or slightly brownish colored anemone
column generally smooth, without sediment
tentacles typically elongate and thin with purple pigment spots ("eye spots") at base
terminal pore present posteriorly

Halcampa decententaculata (=Antenaria sp A & Halcampidae sp A SCAMIT)
column translucent, brownish anteriorly fading posteriorly
10 tentacles creased at base and with terminal "pore"
no sediment covering column
nemathybomes absent

Halianthella sp A
large sand grains cover column (occasionally absent)
purplish colored tentacles visible through thin body wall when sand grains removed or absent
posterior end squared-off (formed by retraction of thin physa)
nemathybomes absent

Limnactiniidae sp A
long, thin anemone with transparent body wall
≈16 mesenteries and purple-pink colored tentacles visible through the transparent column
no sediment covering column
nemathybomes absent

Scolanthus sp A
fine orange (rust) colored silt covering column
nemathybomes present (finger-like "blisters," pseudotentacles, with nematocysts)
Taxonomic Notes On The Most Common Anthozoa Found Off Point Loma

Anthozoans:

Cerianthidae (= Cerianthus sp.):
Purple pigment spots ("eye spots") at base of tentacles
Typically tan, or slightly brownish colored body
No nemathybomes

Halcampa decemtentaculata:
10 tentacles
No sediments adherent to body
No nemathybomes

Halianthella sp. A:
Squared-off posterior end (formed by retraction of thin physa)
Large sand grains cover column (most of the time)
No nemathybomes
Purplish colored tentacles visible through thin body wall when sand grains absent

Limnactiniidae sp. A:
Long, thin anemone with transparent body wall
~16 mesentaries and purple-pink colored tentacles visible through the column
No sediments adherent to body
No nemathybomes

Scolanthus sp. A:
Fine orange (rust) colored silt covering column
Nemathybomes present (finger-like "blisters" with nematocysts)
(often mistaken for Holothuroid!!)

Anemonactes sp.:
Cream to white colored anthozoan
12 tentacles
12 perfect mesentaries along entire length
Body with thick, very wrinkled appearance

Sea Pens:

Acanthoptilum sp.
Axis flexible
Series of small, pink spines present at base of leaves
Terminal bulb and leaves red - purplish

Stylatula elongata: Entire animal white
Axis white, stiff
Large spines present at base of leaves
Leaves with many polyps (up to 40)

Stylatula sp. A:
Entire animal white
Axis white, stiff
Large spines present at base of leaves
3 - 4 polyps per leave

Virgularia galapagensis:
Axis white, stiff
Spines absent
25 - 30 purple colored polyps per leaf

Virgularia bromely:
Entire animal and axis white; axis stiff
Spines absent
5 -7 polyps per leaf

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