Scolanthurus sp A SCAMIT 1983

Edwardsiidae

SCAMIT CODE: MEC 9

Date Examined: April 8 1989
Voucher By: John Ljubenkov, MEC

Literature:

Diagnostic Characters:
1. Nemathybomes (nematocyst "blisters") scattered on upper column and present on physa.
2. Physa not delineated from body, base rounded, not a rosette and in general not tapering.
3. Outer surface a distinct rusty-brown color, even after preservation.

Related Species and Character Differences:

Edwardsia (Edwardsiella) californica McMurrich 1913 - a bay and estuary form (Mission Bay, San Pedro back bay before harbor development) - possibly in very shallow open ocean e.g. off San Onofre); rarely encountered.
Edwardsia sp. A - see Scamit Vol. 2, No. 3

Variability: Color often grades to grayish in some specimens. Some specimens have a "cuticle" over the physal nemathybomes.

Common Synonyms: Often mistaken for a holothuroid.

Aids to Identification: 8 bands running length of body (=mesenterial insertions), scattered nemathybomes; physa not delineated from body.

Distribution: First occurs in deeper parts of harbors and bays, continues out to 100-120 m.

Comments: The most common infaunal anemone on the shelf.

[Diagram of Edwardsia californica with scale 1 mm]