Crista occidentalis (Trask 1857)
Crisiidae

SCAMIT Code: SCCWRP 72
Date Examined: 8 September 1986
Voucher by: Carol Paquette

SYNONYMY: Crisia eburnea Robertson 1903

LITERATURE: Robertson 1910
Osburn 1953

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Erect and jointed, with two alternating series of zooecia, usually 5 or more in each internode.

2. Joints white to yellow.

3. Zooecia are connate for their entire length, with the tips directed forward, usually with a blunt point on the dorsal lip of the tube, giving the edges of the branches a serrated appearance.

4. Ovicell elongate and gradually expanding; ooeciostome straight, without a flap over the aperture. (This character is usually not useful, as most specimens do not contain ovicells.)

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

1. Filicrisia spp. have fewer zooecia per internode (1 to 5 vs. 5 or more) and black joints in older specimens.

2. Crisidia sp. and Bicrisia sp. have elongate filiform spines.

3. Crisia operculata and C. maxima do not have a keel on the frontal surface of the internode.

4. The distance between zooecial apertures is about equal to the width of the branch in C. occidentolis compared with greater than the width in C. operculata and less than the width in C. serrulata. (There are also differences in the ovicells.)

DEPTH RANGE: Low water to 30 fm.

DISTRIBUTION: British Columbia to Galapagos Islands.
Fig. 11. *Crista occidentalis* Trask. Habit sketch. X 1.

Fig. 12. *C. occidentalis*. A portion of a colony showing branching, especially of the oocidal internode. In this, the ooeicum (oe.) is the fifth member of the internode; the first branch (br. 1) arising in a basis rami (br. r.), not wedged in, but attached to the side of the third zoecium; the second branch (br. 2) arising on the side of the sixth zoecium, the ooeicum which pairs with the ooeicum; the third branch (br. 3) arising in the ninth zoecium just above the summit of the ooeell. The distal portion of the ooeidal internode carrying the zoarial growth upward. X 36.

Fig. 3. *Crista occidentalis* Trask, showing mode of branching and normal form of ooeell.

Fig. 4. The same, distorted ooeell due to curved internode.

Fig. 5. The same, pointed tip of terminal internode, often present.