Amphiporus cruentatus (Hubrecht, 1879)

Group: Nemertea: Enopla: Hoplonemertea

Date Examined: 12 June 2011
Voucher Sheet By: Tony Phillips

SYNONYMY:
None

LITERATURE:
Bernhardt, P. 1979. A key to the Nemertea from the intertidal zone of the coast of California. (Unpublished)

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:
1. Body white, thin, generally of uniform width; longest species of Amphiporus observed in SCB.
2. Proboscis sheath extends almost full length of body, proboscis papillated.
3. Basis approximately 2X length of stylet (s/b ratio 0.45 – 0.70), basis an elongated cylinder of uniform width, base rounded; 1-2 accessory sacs (usually absent) with 1-3 accessory stylets.
4. Eyes not visible unless cleared. Sometimes cerebral blood vessel visible entwined among both rows of eyes (Figure 1); cleared specimens with 5-10 pairs of eyes in two uniform rows from anterior of head to just past cerebral groove, anterior pair largest, grading smaller to the posterior.
5. Size of specimens observed: 7 – 22 mm.
RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:
Unless cleared there are a many species of Amphiporus, Tetrastemma and provisional species of Hoplonemertea that have a similar appearance. Upon being cleared there is only one species of Amphiporus that could be confused with A. cruentatus, this being A. californicus. The most similar character is the single row of 4-8 pair of eyes in an irregular row from anterior of head to just past cerebral groove, usually the anterior pair is the largest. This eye row is very irregular compared to the linear form of the eyes seen in A. cruentatus. The shape of the basis is distinctly different being pear shaped compared to the elongate cylinder in A. cruentatus. The s/b ratio of A. californicus is 0.94 – 1.12, while in A. cruentatus it is 0.45 – 0.70. Lastly, A. californicus does not have the cerebral blood vessel in the head region entwined around the rows of eyes.

DEPTH RANGE: 15 – 75 meters

DISTRIBUTION: Puget Sound to San Diego

Figure 1. Amphiporus cruentatus (uncleared) 17 mm. Goleta B6(1), 30 m, 7 October 2008.
* cerebral blood vessel visible as light brown squiggly line