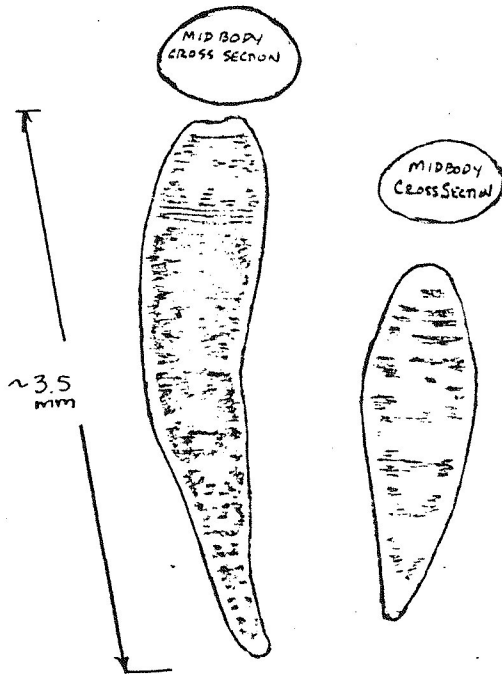


Oerstedtia dorsalis (ABI. AARD, 1806)

SOURCE "MMS"

TAX ATLAS OF BENTHIC FAUNA
OF THE SANTA MARIA BASIN &
WESTERN SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL
VOL 1 P. 125 (NEMERTEA BY
JAMES BLAKE)

B-1(3) JAN. 1994 205FT.



COLOR:

BROWNISH PURPLE
DULL

PATTERN:

VAGUE BLOCKS AND
CROSS-LINING
UNPIGMENTED LATERAL
AREAS DOWN EACH
SIDE

Family Proisorhochmidae

Genus *Oerstedtia* Quatrefages, 1846

Diagnosis. Body moderately slender, of firm consistency. Head not set off from body, bearing eyes; cephalic grooves absent. Esophagus absent, with mouth opening directly into convoluted stomach; internal diverticula mainly on dorsal side of body. Lateral nerves with double fibrous core; cerebral ganglia small; cerebral sense organs small, located near ocelli.

Oerstedtia dorsalis (Abildgaard, 1806)

Figure 6.8 D

Tetrastemma dorsalis: McIntosh, 1873:172-174, pl. 1, fig. 4, pl. 3, fig. 4.

Oerstedtia dorsalis: Bürger, 1895:592.—Coe, 1940:253; 1943:268-269, fig. 40.—Iwata, 1954:17, fig. 4A.—Corrêa, 1961:23-24; 1964:553.

Tetrastemma (*Oerstedtia*) *dorsale*: Coe, 1904:169-170; 1905:299-300, pl. 2, fig. 19.

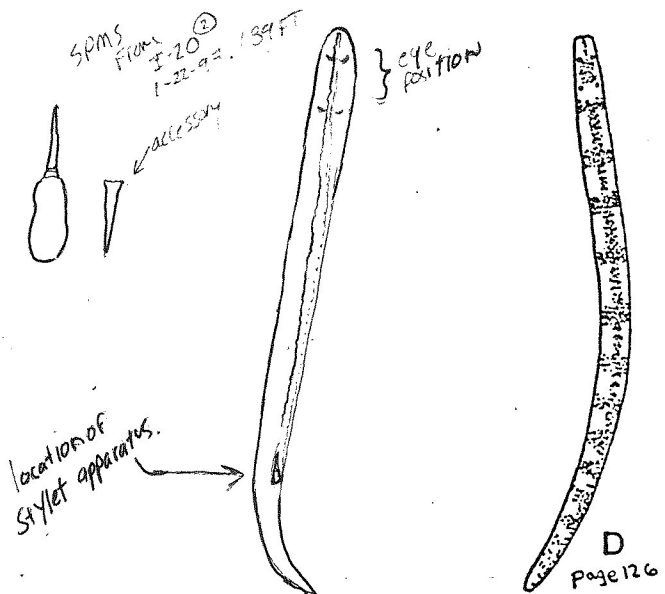
Material examined. California: Santa Maria Basin, off Purisima Point, Sta. R-4 (1).

Description. A small species, 8-20 mm long, 1-2 mm wide. Body minute, slender, firm, cylindrical; head not demarcated from body, with 4 ocelli arranged in a square (Fig. 6.8D). Proboscis large, armed with slender central stylet about equal in length to pear-shaped basis and 2 pouches, each containing 2-3 accessory stylets. Color in life light tan to pale yellow, often mottled on dorsal surface with brown blotches and specks of various shades, sometimes formed into bands; in alcohol, color opaque white to light tan.

Habitat. On wharves, in rocky crevices, among algae and holdfasts, with bryozoa, ascidians, and barnacles; intertidal to 90 m. The species feeds on amphipods (McDermott and Roe, 1985).

Distribution. Widely distributed in the northern hemisphere; northern Europe; eastern North America; Puget Sound to Mexico.

Remarks. This very familiar and widespread species is readily recognized by its minute, slender, yet firm body with bright colors. The direct development of this species was described by Coe (1943). The eggs are large, and mature in the summer. Only a few eggs are deposited by any one individual at a time, but Coe was able to obtain large numbers when several adults were placed together in a jar of seawater. The species should be a convenient experimental animal.



Oerstedtia dorsalis: D, entire animal, dorsal view. (A-C after Coe, 1904; D after Bürger, 1895.)