

**Tetrastemma albidum Coe 1905**

SCAMIT Vol. , No

Group: Nemertea: Enopla: Hoplonemertea: Tetrastemmatidae

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Date Examined: 16 May 2007

Voucher By: Tony Phillips

SYNONYMY: *Prosorhochmus albidus* (Coe 1905)  
*Monostylifera* sp B SCAMIT 1995  
*Monostylifera* sp C SCAMIT 1995

LITERATURE:

- Bernhardt, P. 1979. A key to the Nemertea from the intertidal zone of the coast of California. (Unpublished).
- Coe, W.R. 1905. Nemerteans of the west and north-west coasts of North America. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard Coll.* 47:1-319.
- Coe, W.R. 1940. Revision of the nemertean fauna of the Pacific Coast of North, Central and northern South America. *Allen Hancock Pacific Exped.* 2(13):247-323.
- Coe, W.R. 1944. Geographical distribution of the nemerteans of the Pacific coast of North America, with descriptions of two new species. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, 34(1):27-32.
- Correa, D.D. 1964. Nemerteans from California and Oregon. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 31(19):515-558.
- Crandall, F.B. & J.L. Norenburg. 2001. Checklist of the Nemertean Fauna of the United States. *Nemertes* (<http://nemertes.si.edu>). Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.D. pp. 1-36.
- Maslakova, S.A. et al. 2005. The smile of *Amphiporus nelsoni* Sanchez, 1973 (Nemertea:Hoplonemertea:Monostylifera:Amphiporidae) leads to a redescription and a change in family. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*, 18(3):483-498.
- Maslakova, S.A. & J.L. Norenburg. 2008. Revision of the smiling worms, genus *Prosorhochmus* Keferstein, 1866 and description of a new species, *Prosorhochmus bellzeanus* sp. Nov. (Prosorhochmidae, Hoplonemertea) from Florida and Belize. *J. Nat. Hist.*, 42(17):1219-1260.
- Roe, P., J.L. Norenburg and S. Maslakova. 2007. Nemertea. In *The Light and Smith Manual. Intertidal Invertebrates from Central California to Oregon*. Pp. 221-233.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Body white, thick, generally of uniform width; posterior portion of head, in front of cephalic groove, with paired reddish-brown pigment patches (Fig. 1).
2. Proboscis sheath extends almost full length of body, proboscis papillated.
3. Basis even to slightly less than stylet (s/b ratio .57 - .67), basis observed with truncate to cone shape with a slightly rounded base (Figure 2), 1-2 accessory pouches (2 stylets).
4. Eyes not visible uncleared, cleared specimens with single pair of eyes near anterior edge of head, a second pair of eyes just posterior to cephalic furrow, both sets of eyes can have elongate projections of pigment emanating outward from eye; speckled brownish-red pigment on the dorsum between both sets of eyes, size and intensity of pigment can vary.



Figure 1. *Tetrastemma albidum*

**RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:**

This is the only species of *Tetrastemma* observed that has pigment patches on the head in the southern California Bight. It is also the only species of *Tetrastemma* that has a truncate basis (Figure 2). At this time Dr. Svetlana Maslakova feels that this species should be left as a *Tetrastemma*. The primary external morphological character of *Prosorhochmus* is the prosorhochmid “smile” (see Maslakova & Norenburg, 2008), a horizontal transverse epithelial fold on the head that has not been observed in any of the specimens I examined. They examined specimens collected from southern California in 2002 and found a couple

of species that fit Coe’s original description, but is certain neither is a *Prosorhochmus* due to the above mentioned morphological character and other internal characters. For now they feel that this species is of uncertain taxonomic affinities and best to leave as *T. albidum*. Until an acceptable revision and diagnosis of the genus *Tetrastemma* is completed and the proper designation of *T. albidum* can be ascertained, they feel it is best to re-establish the original designation of Coe.

DEPTH RANGE: 10 - 127 meters

DISTRIBUTION: San Diego to San Francisco

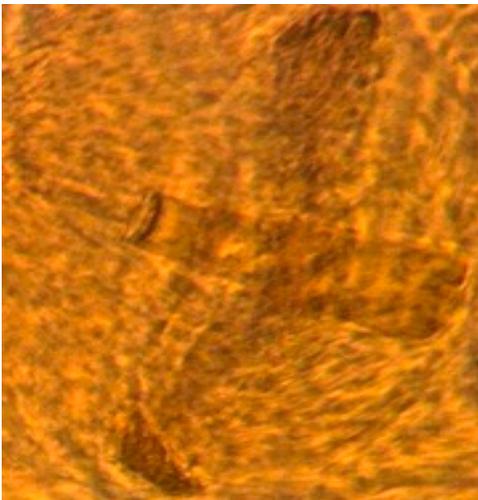


Figure 2. Stylet (14 $\mu$ ) and basis (30 $\mu$ )