

Neanthes succinea

Common in SF
Brackish areas

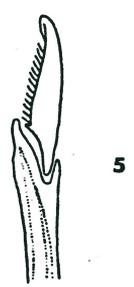
Species: Neanthes succinea (Frey and Leuckart, 1849)

Family: NEREIDAE

Type locality: Helgoland, North Sea.

Diagnosis: Length 30 to 50 mm; width 3 to 4 mm; segments number 100 to 115. Prostomium (fig. 1) longer than wide, with 4 small eyes, 2 short frontal antennae and a pair of thick palpi. Proboscis with paragnaths on all areas; areas I and V with one or 2 in tandem; all other areas with many black cones (fig. 2); jaws translucent, with about 7 oblique teeth along cutting edge. Peristomial cirri moderately long. Anterior parapodia (fig. 3) with long, triangular lobes, the notoacicular one bifid. Posterior parapodia enlarge in the dorsal lobe so that the dorsal cirrus is carried far distally (fig. 4). Notosetae entirely composite spinigers; neuropodia with composite spinigers and falcigers (fig. 5) in which the appendage is longer than wide. Adults mature and metamorphose into epitokes, and larvae develop in the plankton. Outstandingly brackish and euryhaline, in cosmopolitan areas of temperate seas. Forms U-shaped burrows in the sediments.

Distribution: Central and southern California, in sandy or muddy and clay banks of estuarine bays; basic food for fishes in the Salton Sea. Cosmopolitan.



Hartman 1968 p. 329

- small species compared to N. vexillosa
- prefers brackish water, found in back bay + delta
- SF preserved animals usually light brown