

Nereis vexillosa

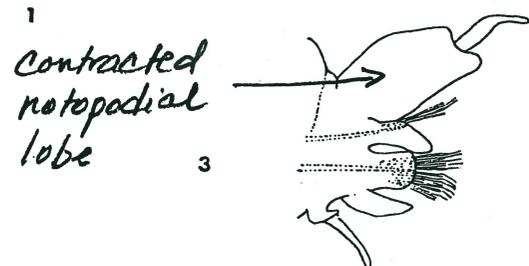
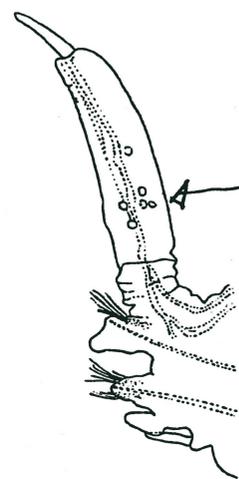
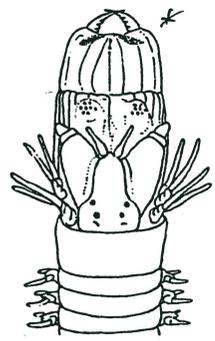
COMMON IN SF

Species: Nereis vexillosa Grube, 1851
= Mastigonereis spinosa Kinberg, Family: NEREIDAE
Type locality: Alaska and Siberia. 1910 - described from SF

Diagnosis: Color in life olive green and posteriorly brownish. Length to 200-300 mm; width to 12 mm; segments number more than 100. Epitoke adults much smaller. Prostomium (fig. 1) as broad as long or longer, with 4 small eyes. Antennae shorter than prostomium; palpi massive. Proboscis with paragnaths on all areas but V; I with several small cones in tandem; II with small transverse patch; III with a circular patch; IV with an oblique patch of several rows; VI with 8 to 10 cones in a mass; VII and VIII with a continuous band of many cones, the row on maxillary side with largest cones (fig. 2). Parapodia have short lobes in anterior segments; farther back the dorsal lobes elongate (fig. 3) and in posterior segments they are greatly elongated (fig. 4) carrying the dorsal cirrus distally. Mature individuals become epitokous, deposit ova in gelatinous masses near midnight, near low tide levels.

Distribution: Central California north to Alaska; intertidal on piles among mussel and barnacle clusters.

HARTMAN 1968 p. 551



expanded notopodial lobe

- large animal compared to other nereidids

- Prefers high salinity & mussels
- Usually #1 or #2 in abundance in dock fouling
- Fig. 4 has fully expanded notopodial lobe, usually seen only in live animals
- Fig. 3 shows contracted notopodial lobe, typically seen in preserved specimens
- Live animals dark green; preserved animals greenish