

***Pista* sp beta of Lovell 2006**

During a review of LACSD *Pista* specimens, six *Pista* specimens from two 30 meter stations were found that express a methyl green staining pattern that does not match any known local species. While other character states such as lateral lappet distribution, branchiae, and nephridial papillae placement closely match *Pista wui*, the staining patterns do not match. *Pista wui* has continuous dorsal banding throughout the thorax while *P. sp beta* has dorsal banding restricted to setigers 2-6 and the anterior half of 7.

While the methyl green pattern does not match any local species, it should be noted that it is strikingly similar to the staining pattern for a north Atlantic species, *Pista cristata* (see illustrations documented in the CD by R. Rowe of L. Harris *Pista* staining patterns from the SCAMIT workshop in March 2002). In addition, these local specimens have a biannulate dorsum on setigers 3-7, and a gap between the ventral edge of the neuropodial tori and the ventral shields as noted for *P. cristata* by Harris. In her figures, Harris illustrates narrow dorsal staining bands in latter thoracic segments and staining around the parapodia in thoracic and abdominal segments that are not present in *Pista* sp beta.

Rick Rowe has noted this staining variation in specimens from shallow depths in Mexican waters and at the time considered it a variant of *P. wui*. Because staining of *P. wui* specimens may not be done on a regular basis for identification purposes, it is possible that more *Pista* sp beta records exist, but are contained within *P. wui* records. Staining of all *P. wui* specimens would be necessary to resolve the two. Tony Phillips reports seeing specimens with this stain pattern in 30 meters from Santa Monica Bay, as well.

Pista sp beta of Lovell 2006 staining patterns. Specimen is one of two from survey 0193 station 2D.



Figure A. Dorsal view, anterior thorax.



Figure B. Ventral view, thorax.