

SCAMIT CODE: MEC 9

Date Examined: April 8 1989
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Literature: Carlgren O. 1949. A Survey of the Pthchodactiaria, Corallimorpharia and Actiniaria. Kungl. Svenska Vetensk. Handl. F.S. Band 1 No. 1.
Stephenson. 1928. The British Sea Anemones. Vol. 1, Ray Soc. #113 for 1927, London.
Carlgren, O. and Stephenson. 1928. The British Edwardsiidae. J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. (U.K.), Vol. 25, No. 1.

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Nemathybomes (nematocyst "blisters") scattered on upper column and present on physa.
2. Physa not delineated from body, base rounded, not a rosette and in general not tapering.
3. Outer surface a distinct rusty-brown color, even after preservation.

Related Species and Character Differences:

Edwardsia (Edwardsiella) californica McMurrich 1913 - a bay and estuary form (Mission Bay, San Pedro back bay before harbor development) - possibly in very shallow open ocean e.g. off San Onofre); rarely encountered.
Edwardsia sp. A - see Scamit Vol. 2, No. 3

Variability: Color often grades to grayish in some specimens. Some specimens have a "cuticle" over the physal nemathybomes.

Common Synonyms: Often mistaken for a holothuroid.

Aids to Identification: 8 bands running length of body (=mesenterial insertions), scattered nemathybomes, physa not delineated from body.

Distribution: First occurs in deeper parts of harbors and bays, continues out to 100-120 m.

Comments: The most common infaunal anemone on the shelf.

