Cladocarpus sp. A
Plumulariidae, Hydrozoa

SCAMIT Code: MEC

Date Examined: May 14, 1990
Voucher by: John Ljubenkov, MEC

Synonomy: None

Literature:

Fraser, C.M., 1937. Hydroids of the Pacific Coast of Canada and The United Staes. University of Toronto Press. 277pp. + 44 plates

_____, 1938. Hydroids of the 1934 Allan Hancock Pacific Expedition. Allan Hancock Pac. Exp, Vol. 4, no. 5, pp. 1-74.

_____, 1948. Hydroids of the Allan Hancock Expeditions since March, 1938. Allan Hancock Pac. Exp. Vol. 4, no 5, pp. 179-334.

Clarke, S.F., 1907. Rept. Scient. Results Exp. Eastern Trop. Pac. VIII. The Hydroids. Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard, Vol. 35, pp. 1-18.

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Nematothecae (specialized cups which hold defensive stinging polyps) form a single row on the leeward side of the colony stem (or hydrocaulis).
2. Just below the origin of the branch pedicels are two V-shaped structural creases which delineate a single chevron-shaped segment.
3. The first two nematothecae are each nestled at the point formed by each crease.
4. A node formed by two annuli is often found below the chevron segment.
5. Hydrothecae similar to the other members of genus.

Distribution: Only one station at Encina Outfall, about 47 meters deep. 20 colonies collected. Spring 1990

Remarks:

The hydrothecae of Cladocarpus is similar to those of Aglaophenia but is deeper bodied and like Aglaophenia has a small nematophore on either side at the top and an unpaired elongate nematophore at the base. The chevron shaped segments are characteristic of Cladocarpus and appear to be a flex point on which the colony can pivot to maintain itself properly in a

changing current. There are probably two sub-genera characterized by having a single or double row of hydrocauline nematophores. Also occuring in large numbers at this station is Campanularia gelatinosa, which has a root-like base and may also be adapted for high current velocities