**Emplectonema gracile (Johnston 1837)** SCAMIT Vol. , No

Group: Nemertea: Enopla: Hoplonemertea: Emplectonematidae

Date Examined: 7 August 2011

Voucher By: Tony Phillips

SYNONYMY: None

LITERATURE:

Bernhardt, P. 1979. A key to the Nemertea from the intertidal zone of the coast of California. (Unpublished)..

Coe, W.R. 1905. Nemerteans of the west and north-west coasts of North America. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard Coll. 47:1-319.

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Coe, W.R. 1951. The Nemertean Faunas of the Gulf of Mexico and of Southern Florida. Bull. Mar. Science of the Gulf and Caribbean, 1(3):149-186.

Correa, D.D. 1964. Nemerteans from California and Oregon. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., 31(19):515-558.

Crandall, F.B. & J.L. Norenborg. 2001. Checklist of the Nemertean Fauna of the United States. Nemertes (<http://nemertes.si.edu>). Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.D. pp. 1-36.

Crandall, F.B. et al. 2002, Checklist of the Nemertean Fauna of Japan and Northeastern Asia. Nemertes (<http://nemertes.si.edu>). Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.D. pp. 1-44.

Kajihara, H. 2007. A Taxonomic Catalogue of Japanese Nemerteans (Phylum Nemertea). Zoological Science, 24: 287-326.

Roe, P., J.L. Norenburg and S. Maslakova. 2007. Nemertea. In The Light and Smith Manual. Intertidal Invertebrates from Central California to Oregon. Pp. 221-233.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Body elongate, anterior rounded, wider than mid – posterior, posterior slender and pointed; dorsal color yellowish-green to bright green, lateral anterior of head region can be creme, lateral edges of body being crème that extends into ventrum.
2. Proboscis sheath extends approximately 30% length of body, proboscis papillated
3. Basis approximately 3-4X in length to stylet (s/b ratio 0.23 – 0.37); basis narrow cylindrical shape with slightly expanded base, point of stylet attachment to basis indistinct, no accessory pouches observed, but reported to have 5-7 accessory stylets (Coe 1940).
4. Eyes not visible when not cleared; cleared specimens with two groups of black eyes; an anterior, elongated cluster of eyes on anterior edge of head of 7 – 12 eyes. Just posterior to the anterior rows are a second pair of circular clustered eyes that have 6 – 9 eyes, anterior to cephalic groove.
5. Size of specimens examined 4 – 45 mm.

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

The bright green dorsal coloration, with the crème lateral sides and ventrum make this species very distinctive. The elongate body helps to differentiate Emplectomea gracilis from Zygonemertes virescens which is a more stout, thickened grayish-green species. The difference in eye pattern and proboscideal armature also help differentiate these two species. A second species of Emplectonema, E. buergeri (Coe 1901), is found north of Monterey to Alaska. This species can be differentiated from E. gracile by its dorsal coloration (reddish-brown to purple) and if present, by its spiral stylet.

DEPTH RANGE: Intertidal – 15 meters

DISTRIBUTION: British Columbia to Ensenada, Mexico; Japan; Europe to Mediterranean

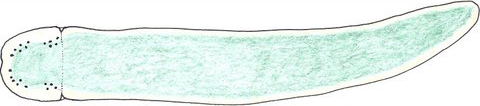


Figure 1. Emplectoma gracile (cleared)