

Aphelochaeta glandaria Complex Blake, 1996

Nomenclature	
Phylum	Annelida
Class	Polychaeta
Order	
Family	Cirratulidae
Authority	Blake 1996
Original Description	Blake, J.A. 1996 [p. 336]
	Synonyms: <i>Aphelochaeta</i> sp N1 <i>Aphelochaeta</i> sp A <i>Aphelochaeta</i> sp C
Common Synonyms (S)	Previous Names: <i>Tharyx multifilis</i>
Previous Names (PN)	<i>Aphelochaeta multifilis</i> <i>Aphelochaeta marioni</i>



Distribution	
Type Locality	Half Moon Bay, CA, USA
Geographic Distribution	Puget Sound; central and southern California
Habitat	Subtidal; depth 2 to 213 m

Description
<p>Prostomium triangular, anteriorly pointed, without eyes but sometimes with lightly pigmented areas around the nuchal slits giving the appearance of ocular spots.</p> <p>Achaetous peristomium cylindrical, dorsally elevated as an elongated crest, with 2-3 pseudoannulations; large, orange-yellow palps attached medially to projections of the peristomium that extend over top of the first setiger</p> <p>Branchiae beginning at setiger one; lateral and slightly forward of the palps, and continuing dorsal to the notopodia into the posterior region.</p> <p>Thoracic setigers somewhat crowded and slightly expanded with a rounded dorsum; thoracic ventrum flat, lightly cream colored. Median setigers terete, with segments three times wider than long, and posterior region with segments more crowded and slightly expanded.</p> <p>A ventral groove extends from the posterior thorax through the length of the body, and a shallow groove is present dorsally in larger specimens.</p>

Aphelochaeta glandaria Complex

Parapodia well developed anteriorly, with numerous long, smooth, silky capillary setae; notosetae about the length of the body width. Neurosetae similar to the notosetae, becoming a third to half the length in the median and posterior region.

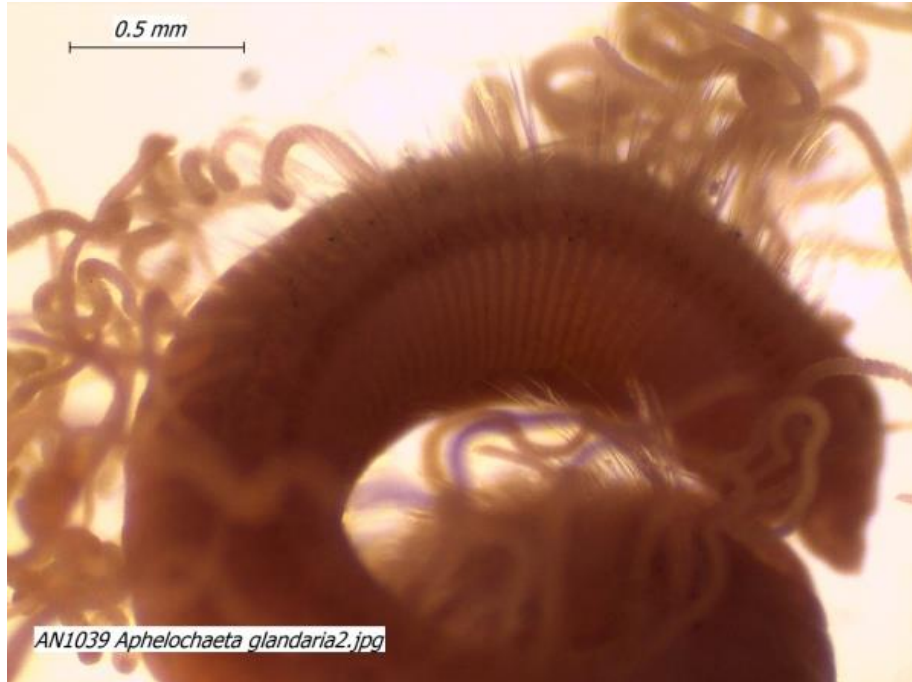
Pygidium short, triangular, with a dorsoterminal anus.

Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics

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Thorax dorsally rounded and ventrally nearly flat



First branchial pair lateral to dorsal tentacles on setiger one



Aphelochaeta glandaria Complex

<p>Ventral groove extending from the posterior thorax through the posteriormost setigers</p>	 <p>0.5 mm</p> <p>AN191 <i>Aphelochaeta glandaria</i> 1.jpg</p>
<p>Setae numerous and silky in appearance</p>	 <p>0.5 mm</p> <p>AN1039 <i>Aphelochaeta glandaria</i>3.jpg</p>

Aphelochaeta glandaria Complex



Related Species and Characteristic Differences

Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Aphelochaeta monilaris</i>	First branchial pair occurring on the peristomium; median setigers moniliform; ventral thorax stains with transverse bands
<i>Aphelochaeta tigrina</i>	First branchial pair occurring on the peristomium; setae sparse; ventral groove only present in the posterior region; posterior thorax and ventral region with transverse staining bands

Comments

When stained, the entire body turns a uniform green except for the creamy glandular area on the anterior ventrum. The Pacific Northwest specimens lack the methyl green speckling noted on the peristomia of southern California material, but otherwise they do not appear to differ significantly from specimens collected in and around the type locality.

Aphelochaeta glandaria may be either a widespread species, or one representative of a complex of sibling species (Blake, 1996).

Found in mixed sands and silts in association with other cirratulid species.

Aphelochaeta glandaria Complex

Literature

Blake, J.A. 1996. Family Cirratulidae Ryckholt, 1851. *In*: Blake, J.A., B. Hilbig, and P.H. Scott (eds.), Taxonomic Atlas of the benthic fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and western Santa Barbara Channel. Volume 6: The Annelida part 3. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, CA. 418 pp. [p. 336]

Doner, S.A. and J.A. Blake. 2009. Two new species of *Aphelochaeta* (Polychaeta: Cirratulidae) from deep water off northern California. *Zoosymposia* 2: 127-137. [p. 135]

More Information

More information about Puget Sound benthic invertebrates is available at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/psamp/index.htm>

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