Spionid worm
*Boccardia proboscidea* Hartman, 1940 Annelida: Polychaeta: Spionidae

**Status**
Exotic (established in Australia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Common Names</th>
<th>None Listed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Synonyms</td>
<td><em>Polydora californica</em> Treadwell, 1914 (homon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Types</td>
<td>Marine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Distribution - Regions       | Australasian - Oceanian  
                                | Central and South America  
                                | South and South-East Asia  
                                | USA and Canada               |
| Distribution - Notes         | South-eastern Australia, North America, Pacific coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, tropical Atlantic, and Northwest Pacific (including China and Japan). Presumed to be introduced widely throughout the world via shipping. Habitat estuarine and marine, inshore (including inshore bays) (Australian populations appear to be restricted to sewage outfalls). |
**Diagnostic Characters:**

Prostomium blunt, Anteriorly truncate or rounded; with entire anterior margin, or bifid, with anterior margin indented (weakly); without frontal or lateral horns. Posterior prolongation of prostomium continuing back to chaetiger 3 (posterior margin); free from dorsum. **Occipital antenna absent.** Eyes present, 4. Palps simple, lacking basal sheath.

**Dorsal branchiae present.** first on chaetiger 2, continue to near posterior end of body (absent for at most posterior one-third of body). **Dorsal branchiae interrupted,** (absent) on chaetigers 5. Dorsal branchiae free and separate from notopodial lamellae throughout, all simple. Accessory branchiae arising from posterior part of notopodium absent. Ventral branchiae absent.

Dorsal crests absent. **Chaetiger 1 with notochaetae.** Chaetigers 2-4 similar, not strongly differentiated. Chaetiger 5 highly modified, enlarged and with specialised chaetae; **with two types of modified spine present.** Chaetiger 5: simple, curved or subdistally inflated spines present; spines with subdistal tooth or flange absent; pennoned spines, with strongly asymmetrical tips absent; spines with flattened or cup-shaped tip present; spines with terminal or subterminal bristles present. Chaetiger 5 companion chaetae absent. Posterior modified notochaetae present. Notopodial hooded hooks present. Neurochaetae of chaetiger 1 simple capillaries similar to those of subsequent chaetigers. Neuropodial hooded hooks absent; first on chaetiger 7; with accessory tooth or teeth above the main fang; with 1 accessory tooth (bidentate); secondary tooth and main fang forming a prominent angle, about 90º or more. Shaft of neuropodial hooded hooks of constant thickness, lacking a constriction. Neuropodial sabre chaetae present, in ventral-most positions. Neuropodial spines present. Pygidium with 4 lobes, dorsal pair smaller than ventral.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad Sweep</th>
<th>Marine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commodity</td>
<td>Marine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifics</td>
<td>Found on soft-sediments, in southeastern Australia especially at sewage outfalls (not a shell-boring polydorid).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen Contact Point</td>
<td><a href="mailto:discoverycentre@museum.vic.gov.au">discoverycentre@museum.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Robin Wilson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Web links

Shell worm Boccardia proboscidea
http://www.annelida.net/nz/Polychaeta/Family/Spionidae/boccardia-proboscidea.htm

References


Acknowledgements
Citation

Last Updated
13/06/2008 2:42:43 PM

Diagnostic Images

Anterior (thoracic) chaetae

Caption: Drawing of modified chaetae


13/06/2008
Overview Images

Anterior end


Source: Robin Wilson (artist), Museum
Body form

Caption: General body form of Boccardia proboscidea

Source: Dr G. Read, NIWA Wellington, NZ