



## Puget Sound Polychaetes: Family Sabellariidae

### Family Sabellariidae

#### General information (from Hobson and Banse, 1981)

- Form hard sand tubes, make a hard reef structure which forms habitat for many other species.
- Two genera found in Puget Sound:
  - *Idanthyrsus*
  - *Neosabellaria*
- *Idanthyrsus armatus* – we get this in Puget Sound, synonymized with *I. saxicavus* by Kirtley, 1994.
- The way they are situated in their sand tubes is that the anterior end sticks out. Lined with paleae...the difference between the two genera is the number of rows of paleae...*Idanthyrsus* has two rows, *Phragmatopoma* has three.
- See descriptions in Hobson and Banse, 1981, p. 78.

#### Genus *Idanthyrsus*

- Opercular paleae yellow, in bristly rows; inner row not covered by middle (or outer) row.
- Anterior end with 2 visible rows of opercular paleae; with stout dorsal hooks.

#### *Idanthyrsus saxicavus* (Baird, 1863)

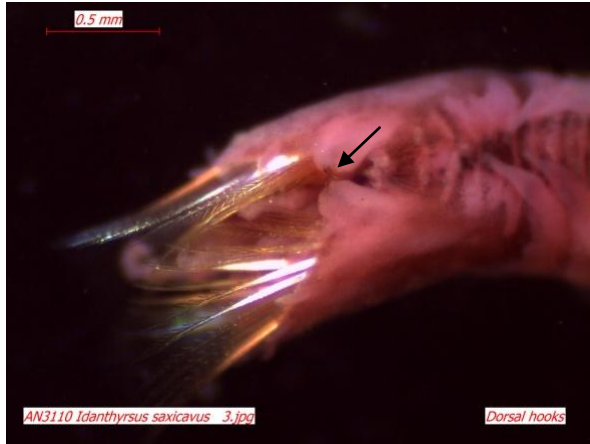
- Thoracic paleae distally widened (oar-shaped) (unlike *I. ornamentatus*, in which paleae are not distally widened.)



Whole body, dorsal view (l); 2 rows of opercular paleae - outer plumose, inner fine tipped spines (r)

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Anterior end, dorsal – pair of hooks (l); inner and outer rows of opercular paleae (r)



Anterior end, dorsal view (l); opercular paleae (r)



Anterior end, ventral view (l,r)

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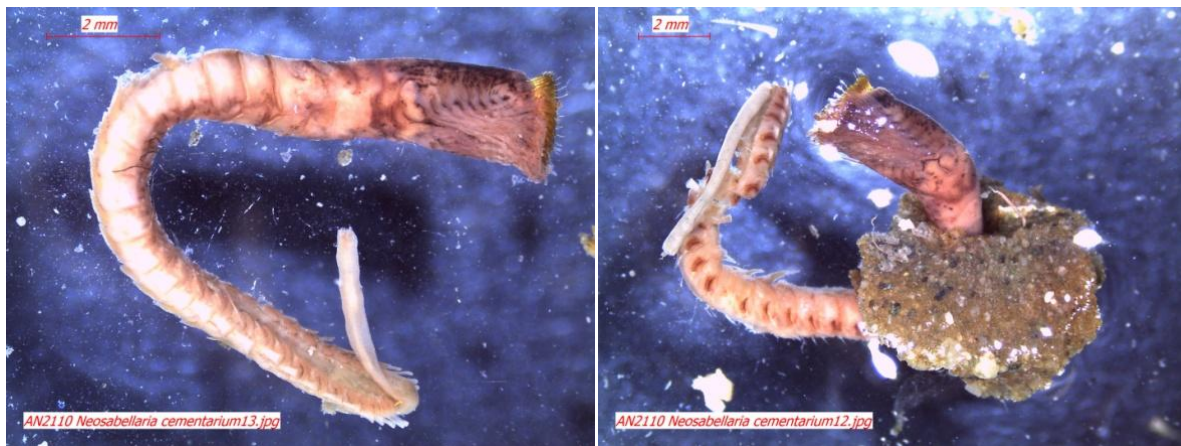
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### Genus *Neosabellaria*

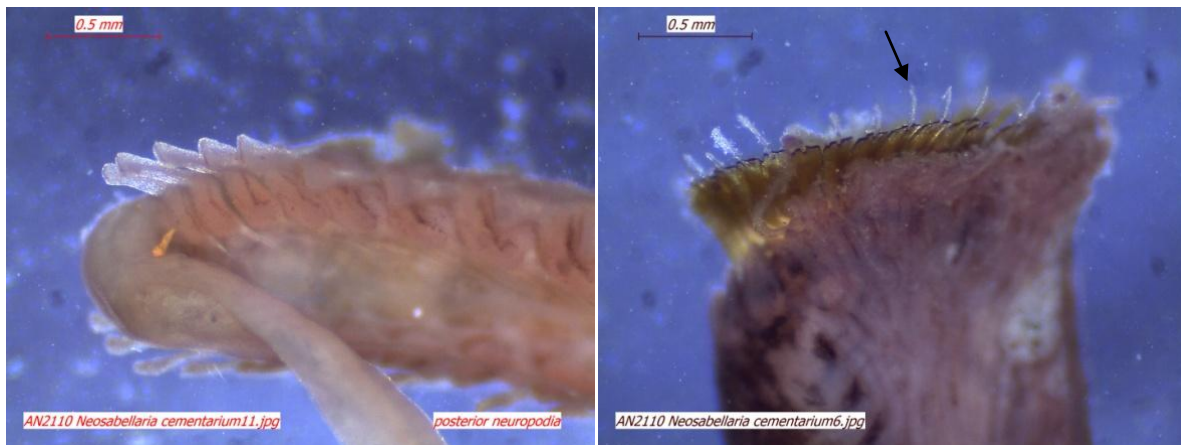
- Opercular paleae yellow, in bristly rows; inner row not covered by middle (or outer) row.
- Anterior end with 3 visible rows of opercular paleae; without stout dorsal hooks.

### *Neosabellaria cementarium* (Moore, 1906)

- Opercular paleae of outer row with distal hairy spike.
- Paleae of middle row uniform in length.
- Paleae of inner row broader than paleae of middle row, distally smooth.



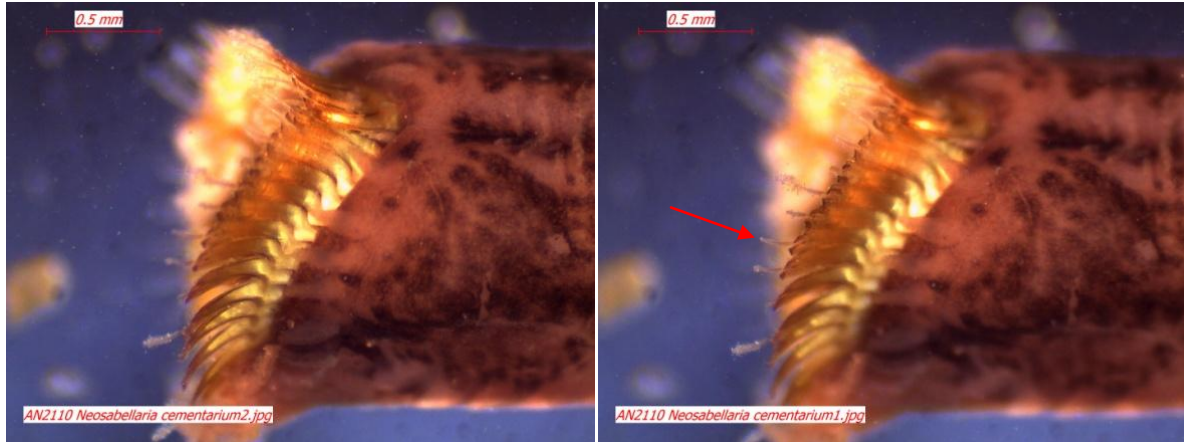
Whole body, dorsal view (l,r); with piece of cement tube (r)



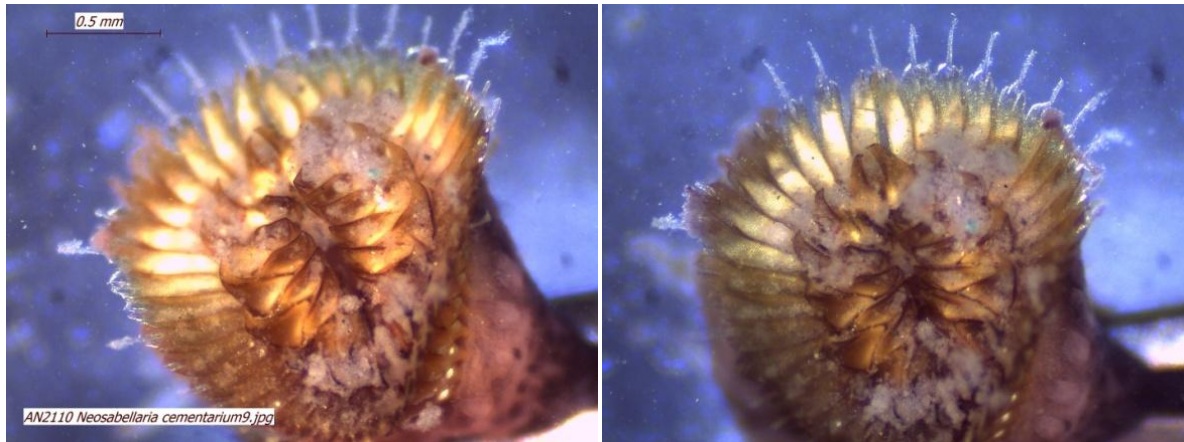
Posterior end, note long neuropodial lobes (l); anterior end, dorsal view, opercular paleae of outer row with distal hairy spike (r)

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Anterior end, lateral view, opercular paleae of outer row (l); with distal hairy spikes in focus (r)



Anterior end, anterior view, note three rows of opercular paleae (l,r)

## References

Kirtley, D.W. 1994. A Review and taxonomic revision of the family Sabellariidae Johnston, 1865 (Annelida: Polychaeta). Sabecon Press, Science Series, Florida, N° 1: 223 pp.

Hobson, K. D. and K. Banse. 1981. Sedentariate and archiannelid polychaetes of British Columbia and Washington. Canadian Bulletin of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences v.209:145.

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### More Information

More information about Puget Sound benthic invertebrates is available at:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/sediment/>

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1403247.html>.

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call (360) 407-6764. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.

These notes were compiled by Kathy Welch and Maggie Dutch after a polychaete workshop held on February 21, 2014 at the Department of Ecology.