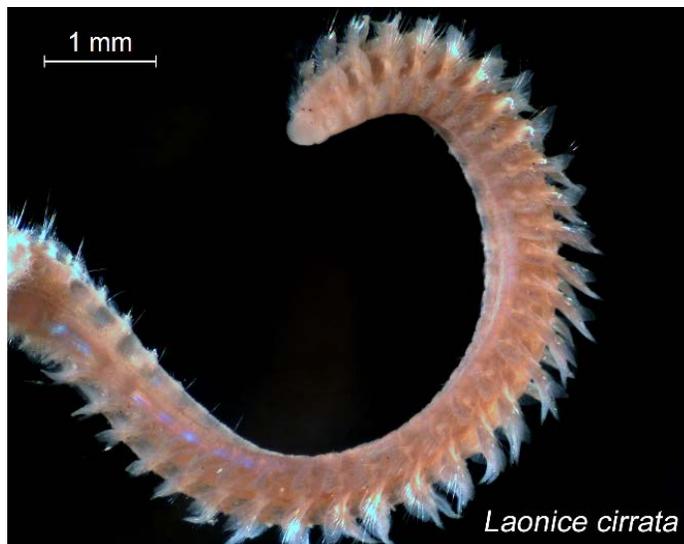




Laonice cirrata (M. Sars, 1851)

Nomenclature	
Phylum	Annelida
Class	Polychaeta
Family	Spionidae
Synonyms	<i>Laonice pugettensis</i> Banse & Hobson, 1968 <i>Nerine cirrata</i> Sars, 1851 <i>Scolecopsis cirrata</i> (M. Sars, 1851)



Distribution	
Geographic Distribution	Cosmopolitan; east coast of North America, eastern Pacific from Canada to central California, Antarctica, Arctic, northern Europe (Blake 1996)
Habitat	5-1120 m (Blake 1996); low water to shelf depths in soft sediments (Blake and Ruff 2007)

Description
From Blake 1996 (unless otherwise noted)
Size/Color: Robust; up to 5 mm wide, 120 mm long for 160 chaetigers. Puget Sound specimens recorded to 180 mm long (personal observation). Tan to yellowish-brown in alcohol.
Prostomium: Broadly rounded anteriorly, fused with peristomium ventrally and laterally; tapering posteriorly, terminating at anterior border or chaetiger 1. Nuchal organ extending to chaetiger 12-30. 4 eyes present, posterior pair larger. Occipital antennae present. Peristomial wings moderately developed.
Branchiae: Apinnate, from chaetiger 2 to chaetiger 35-50, separate from notopodial lamella, smallest on chaetigers 2-3.
Parapodia: Postchaetal lamellae well-developed, smallest on chaetigers 1-2. Anterior lamellae broad, foliaceous. Interparapodial pouches present, beginning on chaetiger 3-52.
Chaetae: Notochaetae unilimbate capillaries in 2 rows; anterior neurochaetae similar to notochaetae. Tri- or quadridentate hooded hooks from chaetiger 40-50; with main fang and 2 apical teeth, sometimes with 3 rd superior apical tooth. Ventral sabre chaetae from chaetiger 22-25, with fine granulations.
Pygidium: With 8-12 anal cirri.

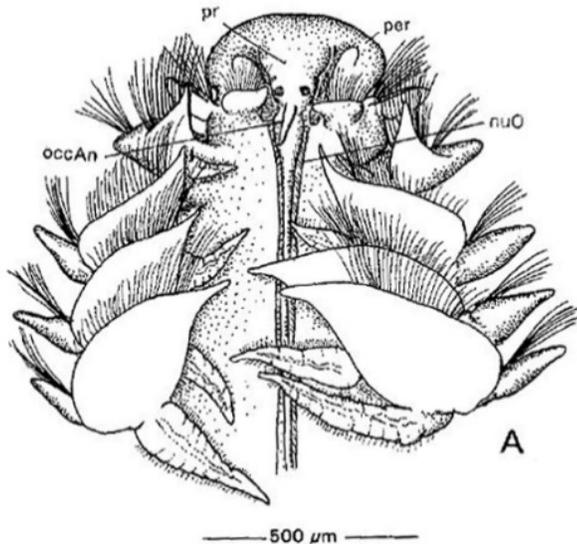
Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics (From Blake 1996)

Photo, Illustrations

Photo, Illustration Credit

Blake 1996, p. 112



pr – prostomium, *per* – peristomium, *occAn* – occipital antenna, *nuO* – nuchal organ

Prostomium broadly rounded, fused with peristomium

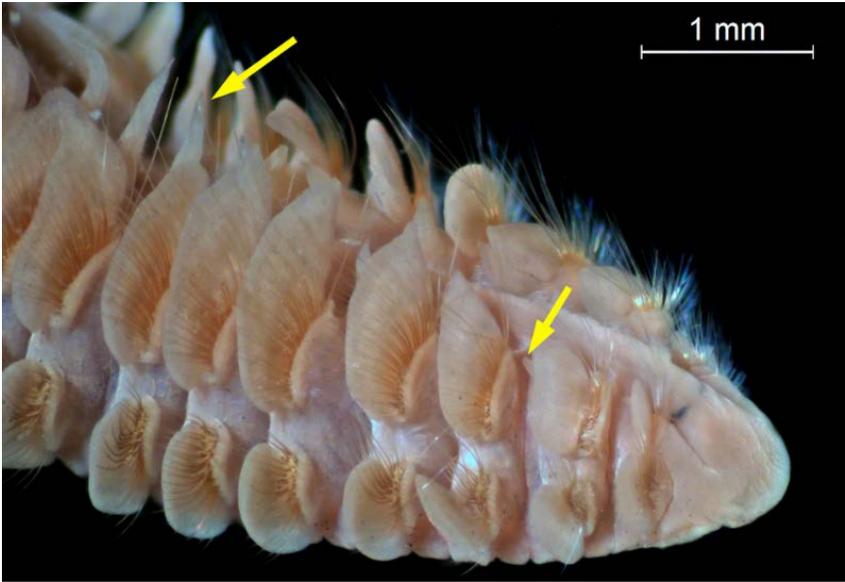
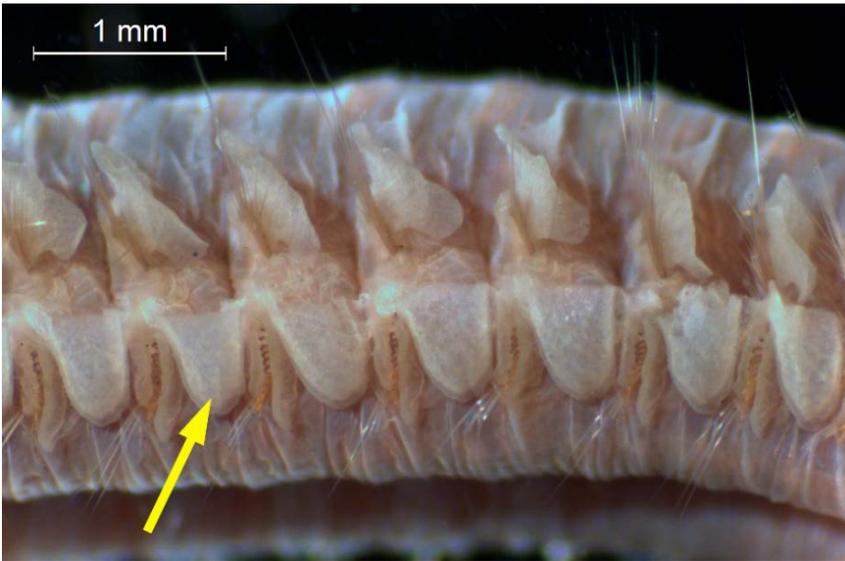
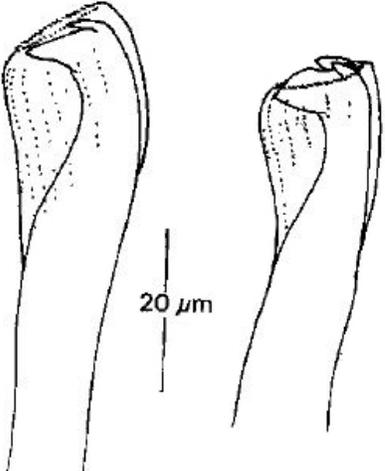
Occipital antennae present

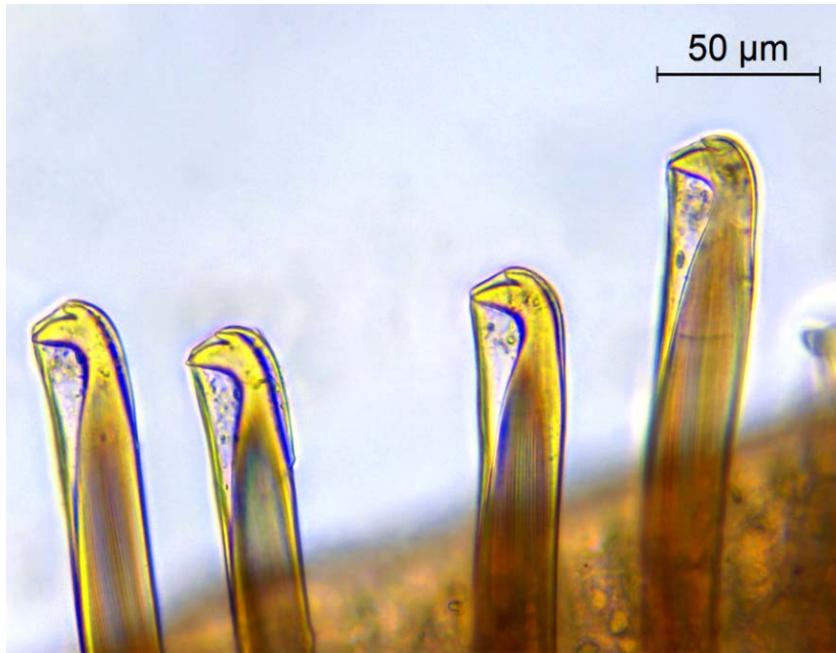
Long nuchal organ extending to chaetiger 12-30



Prostomium (dorsal view); voucher specimen AN 195

Marine Sediment Monitoring Team

<p>Branchiae all pinnate, starting from chaetiger 2, continuing for most of body length (<i>yellow arrows to the right indicate small first branchia on chaetiger 2 and more well-developed branchia on chaetiger 7</i>)</p>	 <p><i>Anterior body region (lateral view); voucher specimen AN 195</i></p>	<p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>
<p>Interparapodial genital pouches present</p> <p><i>Note: Genital pouches may start anywhere from chaetiger 3-52 (Sikorsky 2011); see comments section below</i></p>	 <p><i>Middle body region (lateral view); voucher specimen AN 195</i></p>	<p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>
<p>Neuropodial hooded hooks with 2-3 apical teeth over main fang, beginning on chaetiger 40-50</p>		<p>Blake 1996, p. 112</p>



Hooded hooks from middle chaetiger; voucher specimen AN 195



Middle parapodium; voucher specimen AN 195

Related Species and Characteristic Differences

Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Laonice nuchala</i>	Triple nuchal grooves (Blake 1996); capillaries in 3 rows from 1–3 to 9–12 chaetigers; genital pouches on 5–15 segments only; last 5 pairs of branchiae fused basally to notopodial lamellae (Sikorsky 2011). <i>Note: This is a California species ranging from Central California to Santa Barbara (Blake 1996).</i>
<i>Laonice appellofi</i>	Prostomium protrudes beyond peristomial wings; thoracic parapodial fascicles with dense, brassy-colored setae. <i>Note: This is a southern California species that is not known to occur in Puget Sound.</i>

Comments

Banse and Hobson (1968) described a new species, *Laonice pugettensis* from Puget Sound, Washington, superficially similar to *L. cirrata* but distinguishable by the interparapodial pouches beginning much earlier (chaetiger 2-7). According to Sikorsky's 2011 review of *Laonice*, type specimens of *L. pugettensis* Banse and Hobson were examined (in Sikorsky 2003) and determined to be synonymous with *L. cirrata*. Two other NE Pacific species (included in Hartman's 1969 key), *L. foliata* Moore, 1923 and *L. sacculata* Moore, 1923 were also synonymized with *L. cirrata* by Sikorsky 2003. Blake (unpublished) also synonymized *L. foliata* with *L. cirrata* (Blake and Ruff 2007).

Juvenile *Laonice* sp. may not have developed adult features, so it is recommended that very small individuals not be identified below genus level (Gene Ruff, personal communication, 2015).

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