



## *Notomastus tenuis* Moore, 1909

### Nomenclature

Phylum	Annelida
Class	Polychaeta
Family	Capitellidae
	<i>Notomastus angulatus</i> Chamberlin, 1919
Synonyms	<b>Accepted, alternate representation</b> <i>Notomastus (Clistomastus) tenuis</i> Moore, 1909 (disused subgenus)



### Distribution

Type Locality	San Diego, CA
Geographic Distribution	Eastern Pacific, British Columbia to southern California; Puget Sound, WA
Habitat	Sandy beaches, shallow bays, and estuaries; NOT known to occur in shelf depths (García-Garza et al 2012)

### Description

From García-Garza et al 2012 (unless otherwise noted)

**Size/Color:** Holotype incomplete with 60 segments, 13 mm long, 1 mm wide. Yellow to light brown in alcohol.

**Body:** 12 thoracic segments, 11 with capillaries only (characteristic of genus). 1<sup>st</sup> chaetiger uniramous. Body long, slender; transition between thorax and abdomen abrupt (last thoracic chaetiger narrowing, followed by enlarged abdominal chaetigers) and marked by chaetal change. Thorax biannulate, abdomen uniannulate. Epithelium smooth throughout.

**Prostomium:** Conical; patches of eyespots present but may be faded. Peristomium achaetous.

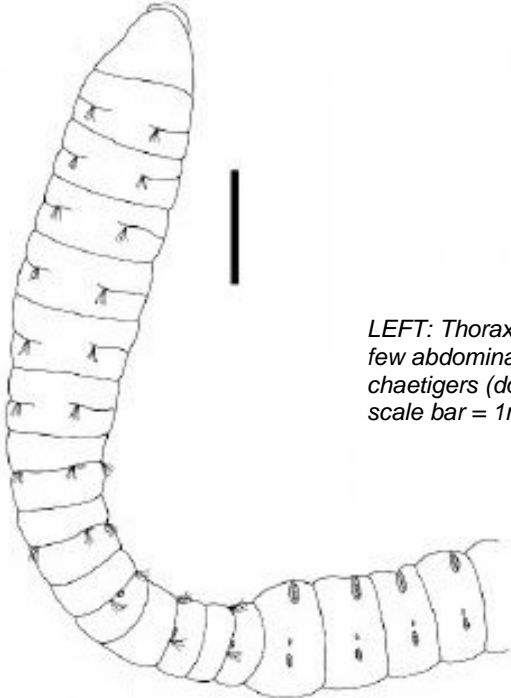

**Branchiae:** Absent (not observed in holotype).

**Parapodia:** Notopodia separated by wide gap; lobes prominent in abdomen, giving body a “nubbly” appearance (Blake 2000). Neuropodia small. Lateral organs from chaetiger 1, between notopodia and neuropodia; oval-shaped in thoracic region and appearing as small protuberances in abdominal region, until end of body. Genital pores on thoracic intersegmental areas 5/6, 6/7, 7/8, 8/9, 9/10.

**Chaetae:** Bilimbate capillaries on thoracic chaetigers; abdominal chaetigers with hooded hooks only, on both rami. Hooks with evident constriction, wide shoulder, moderate hood, and 4 to 5 rows of multidentate subapical teeth above main fang.

**Pygidium:** Simple, no appendages.

## Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics	Photo, Illustrations	Photo, Illustration Credit
<p>Thorax with 11 setigers with capillaries only (characteristic of genus)</p> <p>Chaetiger 1 uniramous, notochaetae only</p> <p>Anterior thoracic chaetigers smooth, not areolated</p> <p>Transition between thorax and abdomen abrupt</p>	 <p><i>LEFT: Thorax and first few abdominal chaetigers (dorsal view); scale bar = 1mm</i></p>  <p><i>Prostomium and thorax (lateral view); specimen from 2015 PSEMP Urban Bays Station 154 (Bainbridge Basin, WA)</i></p>	<p>García-Garza et al 2012 (p. 3, Figure E)</p> <p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>



*Prostomium, thorax, and anterior abdomen (lateral view); specimen from 2015 PSEMP Urban Bays Station 154*


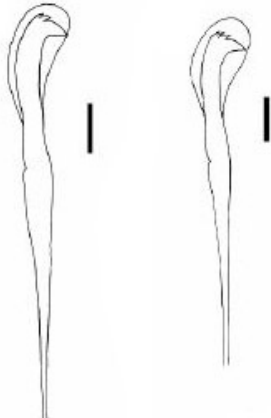

Prostomium with paired groups of 15-20 small eyes (only 1 eyespot visible in specimen pictured right)

*Note: This character is not reliable - easier to observe in small specimens and may fade over time*



*Prostomium (dorsal view); specimen from 2015 PSEMP Urban Bays Station 154*

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<p>Nephridia absent in abdomen</p> <p>Abdominal notopodia elevated, prominent</p>	 <p>500 <math>\mu</math>m</p> <p><i>Posterior abdomen (lateral view); specimen from 2015 PSEMP Urban Bays Station 154</i></p>	<p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>
<p>Hoods of abdominal hooks inflated but not voluminous</p>	 <p><i>Neuropodial hooded hooks from chaetiger 18 (LEFT) and chaetiger 24 (RIGHT); lateral view</i></p>	<p>García-Garza et al 2012 (p. 3, Figures D and H)</p>
<p><b>Methyl green staining:</b> Body stains uniformly light green, with no pattern evident (Blake and Ruff 2007)</p> <p><b>Variations:</b> <i>Prechaetal area of some abdominal chaetigers with slightly darker encircling band</i></p> <p><i>Chaetigers 5-11 may stain slightly darker</i></p>	 <p>2 mm</p> <p><i>Specimen from 2015 PSEMP Urban Bays Station 154</i></p>	<p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>

## Related Species and Characteristic Differences

Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Notomastus hemipodus</i>	The most similar species to <i>N. tenuis</i> (often confused, as it can co-occur); with only 1 minute pair of eyespots; anterior thoracic chaetigers changing abruptly in size; striking methyl green staining pattern of ventral “racing stripes” in abdomen.
<i>Notomastus lineatus</i>	Chaetiger 1 biramous; MG staining produces dorsal banding on abdominal chaetigers
<i>Notomastus latericeus</i>	Chaetiger 1 biramous; branchiae long, single, filamentous; distinctive MG staining pattern of dark green nephridial pores in abdomen.
<i>Decamastus gracilis</i>	Chaetiger 1 biramous; 10 thoracic setigers with capillaries.

## Comments

Often confused with *Notomastus hemipodus*, but may be easily distinguished by MG staining (see “Related Species...” section above).

*Notomastus tenuis* is encountered infrequently during subtidal Puget Sound sediment monitoring; this may be because it occurs more in shallow, intertidal depths. This is consistent with what has been observed in western British Columbia (Hiroki Tomoe, personal observation).

## Literature

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## More Information

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Prepared by Dany Burgess (Ecology's Marine Sediment Monitoring Team); reviewed by Tara Macdonald and Hiroki Tomoe (Biologica). This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1803389.html>

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