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STYLARIOIDES PAPILLOSA, SP. NOV., A NEW
ANNELID FROM THE SAN DIEGO REGION

BY

CHRISTINE E. ESSENBERG

(Contribution from the Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California)

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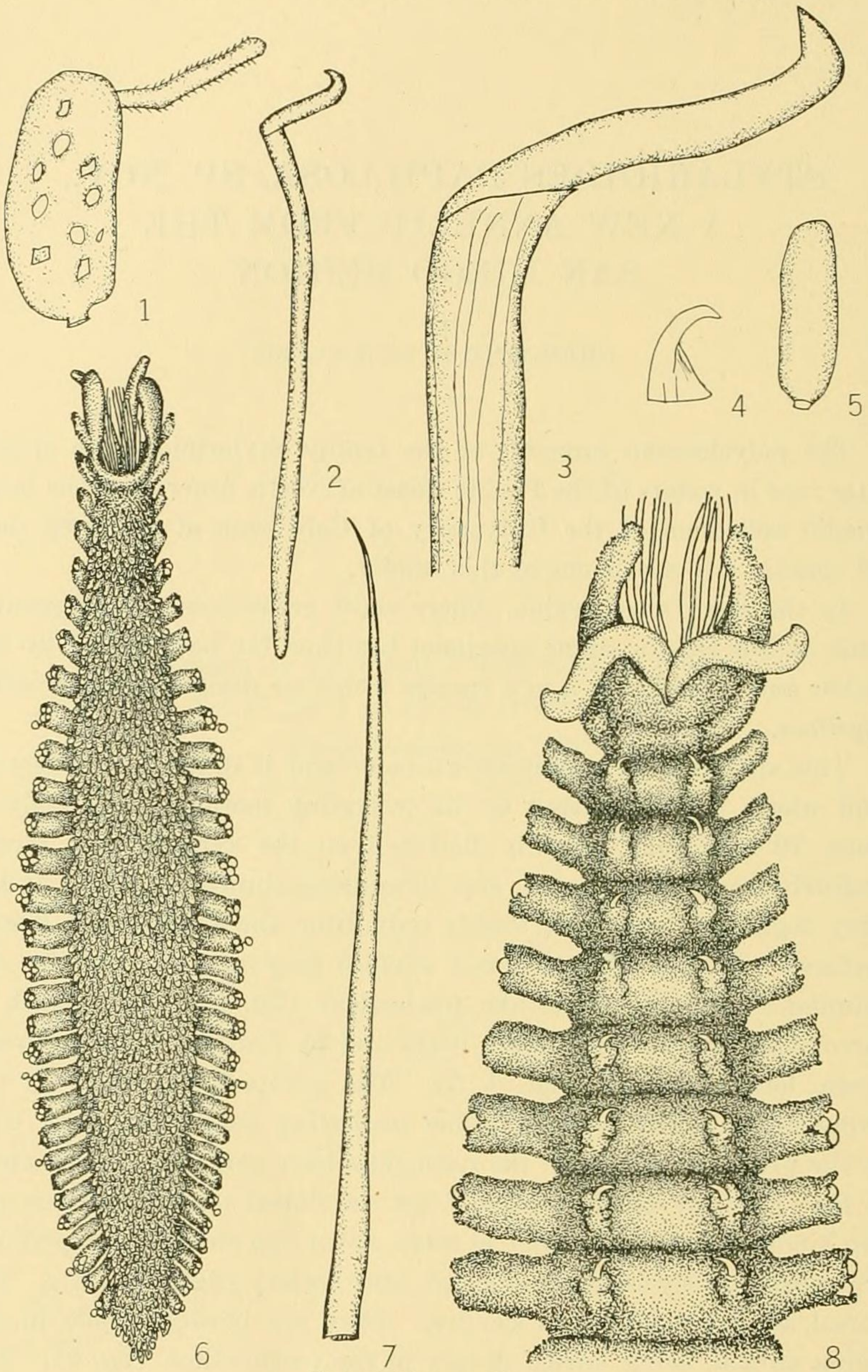
STYLARIOIDES PAPILLOSA, SP. NOV.,
A NEW ANNELID FROM THE
SAN DIEGO REGION

BY
CHRISTINE E. ESSENBERG

The polychaetous annelids of the family Stylarioidae are apparently rare in waters of the Pacific Coast of North America. The large annelid collection of the University of California at Berkeley does not contain any specimens of this family.

In the San Diego region, where shore collections are frequently made at low tide, a single specimen has thus far been found by the author and is evidently a new species which we designate *Stylarioides papillosa*.

This species is of a gray-brown color and is difficult to detect in mud where it lives, except by its wriggling motion. The body is about 70 mm. long, slightly flattened on the ventral side, tapers gradually toward both ends, and terminates bluntly at both. It has forty segments, which are visible only from the ventral and lateral surfaces. On the convex dorsal surface they are obscured by the abundance of long, finger-like projections (fig. 1). The mouth is surrounded by two long, green palps and by fourteen or more grass-green, long branchiae (figs. 1, 2). The parapodia are long in the living animal, with short papillae projecting even from their tips. In the preserved specimen the parapodia have contracted very much, so that they are hardly visible from the dorsal surface. There are two kinds of setae. The ventral setae, about two on each parapodium, are conspicuously large, compound, and hooked (figs. 3, 4, 6). The dorsal setae are long and slender. They are hardly visible in the living animal, being buried deeply in the parapodium (fig. 2). The dorsal projections, or villi, giving the animal a rough or spiny appearance, are of two kinds. Some are long, finger-shaped, attached to the body by a narrow neck (fig. 5); others are smooth and uniform in shape (fig. 8). These villi-like projections incline posteriad and between them are lodged grains of sand and mud, giving the animal the appearance of a moving piece of mud.

*Stylarioides papillosa*

- Fig. 1. Villus. $\times 45$.
 Fig. 2. Ventral seta. $\times 45$.
 Fig. 3. Tip of ventral seta. $\times 320$.
 Fig. 4. Point of hook of ventral seta. $\times 320$.
 Fig. 5. Villus. $\times 20$.
 Fig. 6. Dorsal view. $\times 1.5$.
 Fig. 7. Dorsal seta. $\times 160$.
 Fig. 8. Ventral view of anterior portion. $\times 3$.

Stylarioides papillosa has some resemblance to *S. plumosa* Chiaje (1828-1829) and to *S. flabellata* (McIntosh, 1915). It differs from both in various essential characteristics.

Its failure to be found in the many annelid collections from the Pacific Coast may be due to its remarkable adaptations and its protective coloring. Unless one makes a special effort to find it by pulling up the sea weeds under whose roots the animal lives, this polychaete would probably not be discovered.

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