

 Puget Sound Polychaetes:  
Family Ampharetidae

## Family Ampharetidae

### General characters (from Hilbig, 2000)

- Body with wide thoracic region (having 12-18 segments) clearly separated from narrower, tapering abdomen.
- Prostomium usually spatulate, roughly pentagonal; anterior margin often trilobed.
- Eyes present or absent; when present, may be arranged in pairs, patches, or lines.
- Buccal tentacles are retractable and arise from the roof of the buccal cavity.
- Three or four pairs of branchiae (single filaments) associated with segments 3 though maximally 6; usually directed anteriorly and situated in a more or less straight transverse line across the anterior dorsum. Branchia can fall off, so you have to look for the branchial scars. Most of those in PS have 4 pairs of branchia.
- Notopodial paleae sometimes present on segment 3.
- Thoracic parapodia biramous; first biramous parapodia on segment 7; notopodia cylindrical, bearing simple limbate or capillary setae; thoracic neuropodia in simple tori, sometimes with dorsal cirri.
- Abdominal parapodia uniramous; notopodia lacking; neuropodia usually elongate pinnules with single rows of neurosetae.
- Number of thoracic and abdominal neuropodial uncinigers is an important diagnostic characteristic for genera and species.
- Anus terminal, sometimes with a pair of cirri and rounded lobes or papillae.

### General notes

Distinguishing between ampharetids and terebellids:

- Many ampharetids have paleae; terebellids never do.
- Buccal tentacles originate in the roof of the mouth and are retractable in ampharetids; in terebellids, they arise from a membrane on the dorsum and cannot be retracted.
- Branchiae are simple and arranged in a line behind the prostomium in ampharetids; in terebellids, branchiae are branched or in sessile tufts of numerous single filaments.

## Genus *Amage*

### *Amage anops* (Johnson, 1901)

- Body short, tumid, with wide thorax.
- With 4 pairs of gills.
- Without flabellum.

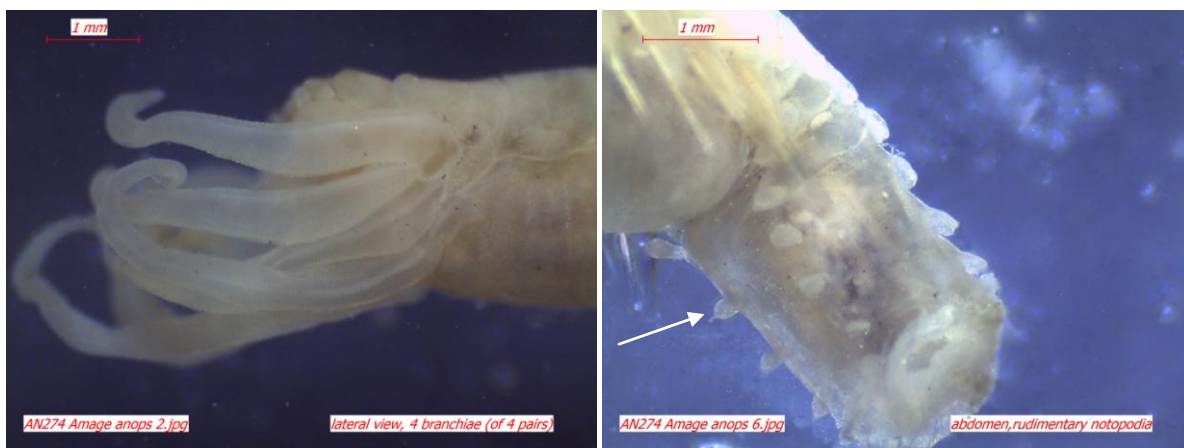
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- With 11 thoracic uncinigers; with 12-15 abdominal setigers.
- Abdomen with rudimentary notopodia.



Whole body, dorsal view, 4 pairs of branchiae (l); lateral view, 11 thoracic uncinigers (un) (r)



Lateral view, 4 branchiae (of 4 pairs) (l); abdomen with rudimentary notopodia (r)

## Genus *Ampharete*

### *Ampharete labrops* Hartman, 1961

- Body stout, tumid; thorax with prominent ventral shields.
- Ventral edge of prostomial upper lip with numerous eyespots.
- Flabellum present, with paleae.
- With 14 thoracic setigers; 14 pairs of notopodia and 12 pairs of neuropodia starting on setiger 3.
- Pygidium small, with 2 long, slender dorsolateral cirri and several low, crowded papillae.



Whole body, anterolateral view (l); anteroventral view - note paleae, eyespots, neuropodia starting on setiger 3 (r)



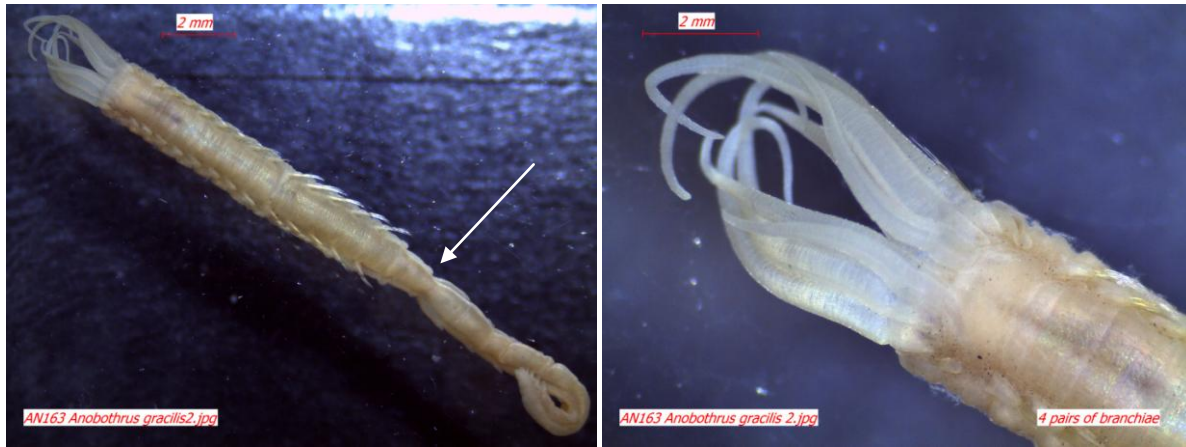
Pygidium with 2 anal cirri

## Genus *Anobothrus*

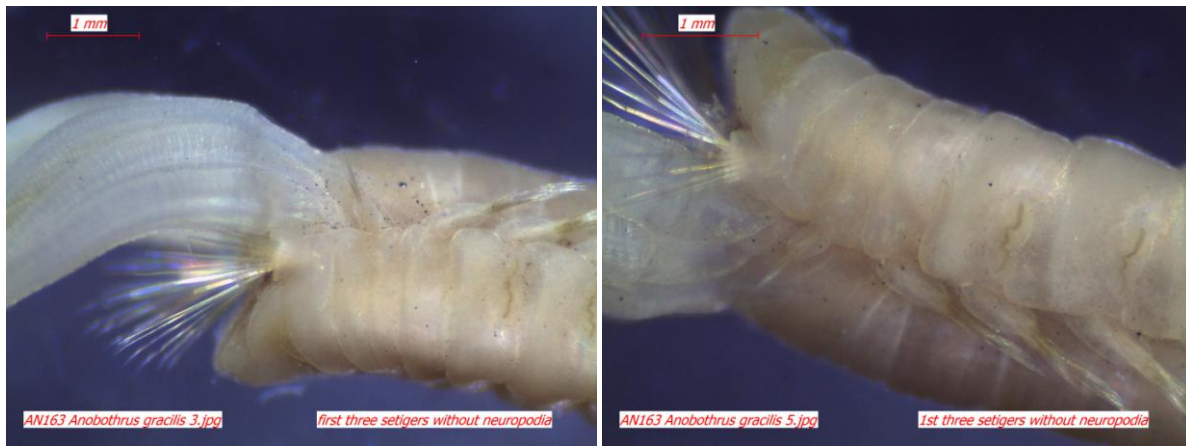
### *Anobothrus gracilis* (Malmgren, 1866)

- Body slender, linear, gently tapering toward pygidium.
- With distinct constriction between second and third abdominal segments.
- With flabellum.
- Three thoracic setigers with notosetae but without neurosetae.
- Fifth from last thoracic setiger with raised band of tissue running transversely across dorsum connecting the notopodia.

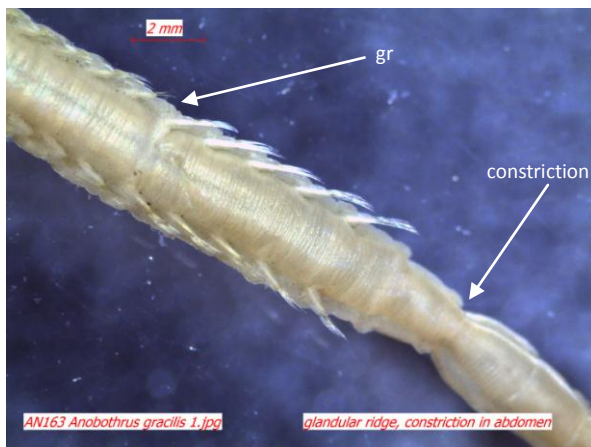
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Whole body, dorsal view, constriction between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> abdominal segments (l); 4 pairs of branchiae (r)



First three setigers with notosetae but without neurosetae (l,r)



Glandular ridge (gr), constriction in abdomen

### Additional species of Ampharetidae found in Puget Sound

<i>Ampharete acutifrons</i>	<i>Amphicteis scaphobranchiata</i>	<i>Melinna elisabethae</i>
<i>Ampharete cf crassiseta</i>	<i>Asabellides lineata</i>	<i>Melinna oculata</i>
<i>Ampharete cf goesi</i>	<i>Asabellides sibirica</i>	<i>Moosesamytha bioculata</i>
<i>Ampharete finmarchica</i>	<i>Lysippe labiata</i>	<i>Samytha californiensis</i>
<i>Amphicteis mucronata</i>	<i>Melinna cristata</i>	<i>Schistocomus hiltoni</i>

### Literature

Hilbig, B. 2000. Chapter 8. Family Ampharetidae Malmgren, 1867. Pages 169-230. IN: Blake, J. A.; Hilbig, B.; and Valentich-Scott, P. H. Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and Western Santa Barbara Channel. Volume 7 - The Annelida Part 4. Polychaeta: Fabelligeridae to Sternaspidae. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Santa Barbara. ISBN-13: 978-0936494128.

### 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/1403232.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 June 22, 2014 at the Department of Ecology.