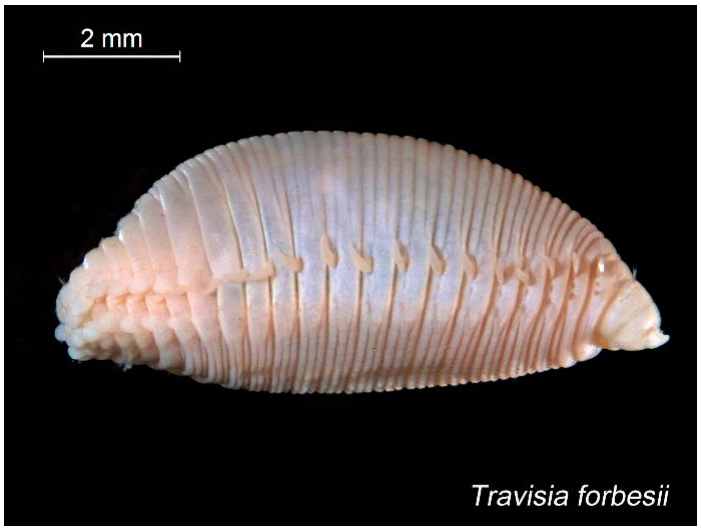
Travisia forbesii Johnston, 1840

Nomenclature

Phylum	Annelida
Class	Polychaeta
Family	Travisiidae
Synonyms	*Ammotrypane oestroides* Rathke, 1843 *Ophelia mamillata* Örsted, 1842 *Ophelia mamillata crassa* Örsted, 1843



Distribution

Type Locality	Molde, Norway (as *Ammotrypane oestroides*)
Geographic Distribution	Widely distributed in the Arctic: Siberian, Alaskan, and Canadian Arctic, Davis Strait, Greenland, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen, Novaya Zemlya, Kara Sea. Also Iceland, Faroes, Norway to France; Labrador to Maine; South Africa; Bering Sea to Washington Sound; north Japan Sea (Pettibone 1956); British Columbia; Puget Sound, WA
Habitat	Low water to 1,501 fathoms (Pettibone 1956). Medium to coarse sand with a very low silt content. *T. forbesii* is reported as a species inhabiting coarse to fine sand, and (rarely) mud.

Description

Size/Color: A moderate-sized species, about 30 mm in length and 7 mm wide **(**Hartmann-Schröder 1971) for 23-26 chaetigers (Hobson and Banse 1981). Light tan to pinkish in alcohol.

Body: Short, fusiform, grub-shaped, with small, uniform vesicles throughout.

Prostomium: Smooth, pointed; eyes absent.

Branchiae: 18-23 pairs of simple, cirriform branchiae present from chaetiger 2.

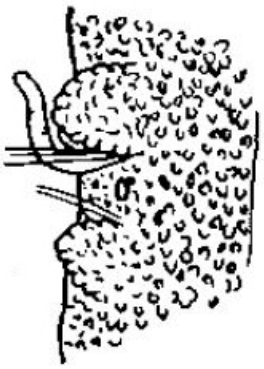
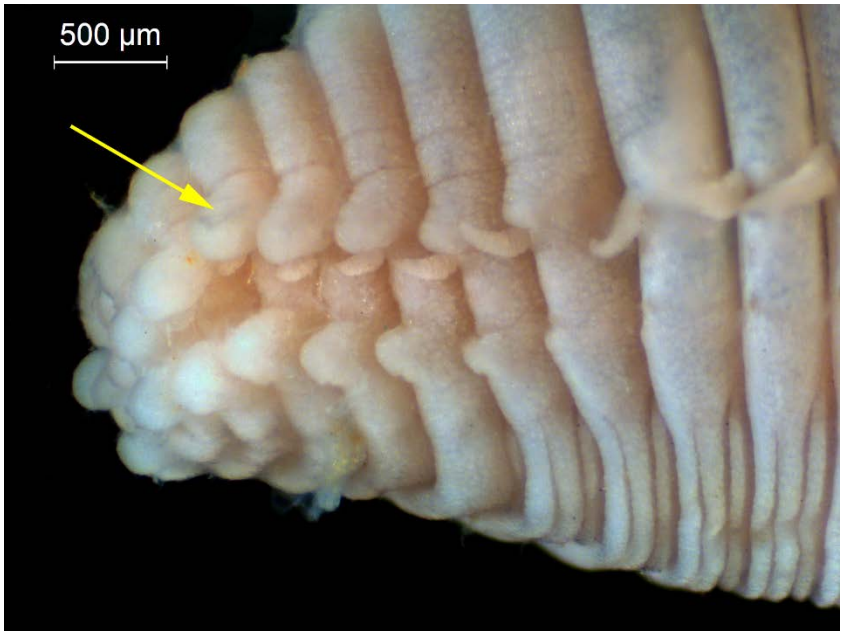
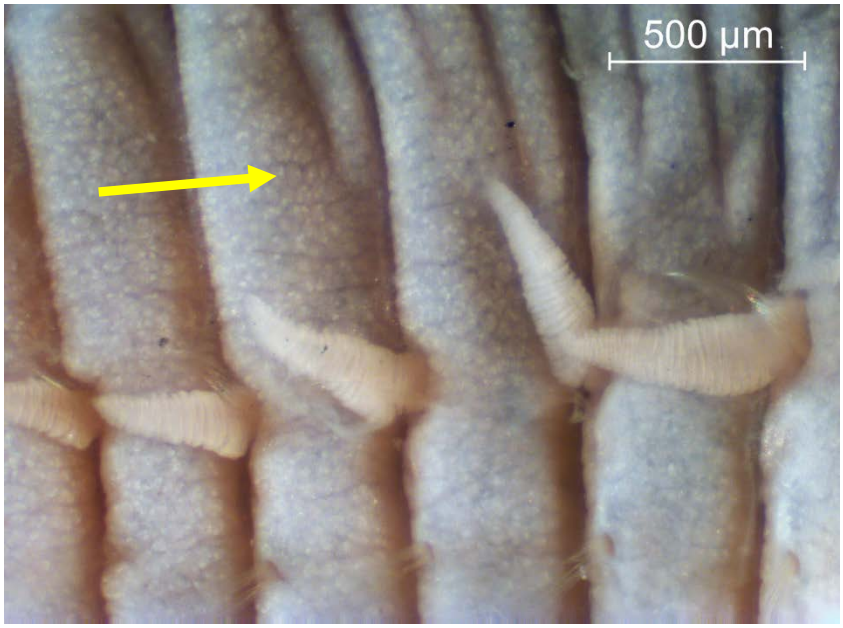
Parapodia: Inconspicuous in anterior and middle body regions; lobes in posterior portion of body enlarged, rounded.

Chaetae: Capillaries.

Pygidium: With 3-8 short, rounded papillae.

Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics	Photo, Illustrations	Photo, Illustration Credit
Body with 23-26 chaetigers and 18-23 pairs of branchiae starting on setiger 2 (Hobson and Banse 1981)	  *Whole specimen, dorsal (left) and ventral (right); voucher specimen AN2200*	Marine Sediment Monitoring Team

Parapodial lobes in posterior portion of body enlarged, rounded	  *Posterior parapodia (lateral view); voucher specimen AN2200*	Hobson and Banse 1981 Marine Sediment Monitoring Team
Body vesicles (beads on body surface) small, uniform in size	 *Middle body region (lateral view); voucher specimen AN2200*	Marine Sediment Monitoring Team

Related Species and Characteristic Differences

Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
Travisia brevis	Posterior parapodia with enlarged, tapering parapodial lobes (Hartman 1969).
Travisia pupa	A large species, up to 85 mm. 24 pairs of branchiae; parapodial lobes of posterior portion of body not enlarged; body vesicles not uniform in size.
Travisia gigas	Posterior parapodia with enlarged, pointed parapodial lobes; body with 46 chaetigers (Blake and Ruff 2007). *Note: This species has been reported during coastal surveys of Washington and Oregon but has not been collected during Puget Sound sediment monitoring.*

Comments

Travisia forbesii has only been encountered once during Ecology's 29+ years of sediment monitoring in Puget Sound, WA, and only once in 1999 by Biologica (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada), leading regional taxonomists to consider it a rare species.

Persson and Pleijel (2005) transferred *Travisia* from family Opheliidae to family Scalibregmatidae based on DNA evidence; Blake and Maciolek (2016) rejected the inclusion of Travisia in either Opheliidae or Scalibregmatidae and established Hartmann-Schröder's opheliid subfamily Travisiinae as a separate family.

Literature

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More Information

To learn more about our Voucher Sheet project, please visit: http://ecologywa.blogspot.com/2017/03/eyes-under-puget-sound-voucher-sheet.html More information on Puget Sound marine monitoring is available on our website, including a full list of published benthic invertebrate voucher sheets.	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/1803385.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.