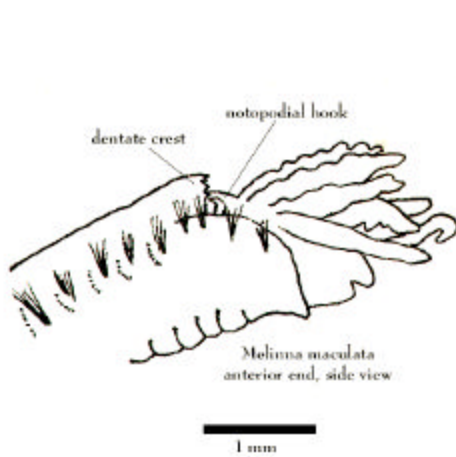


Key to Species within Families

Ampharetidae

1a. A pair of stout notopodial hooks present behind branchiae on segment 5 (see below, left); dentate dorsal crest present across segment 6; fine, imbedded, acicular neurosetae present laterally on segments 3 to 5 (see below, right); *helpful hints*: 14 thoracic setigers with uncini (segment 6 lacks uncini); long abdominal region with 40+ segments.....**Melinna maculata**



b. Stout notopodial hooks completely absent; fine, imbedded, acicular neurosetae absent from segments 3 to 5, no dorsal crest present.**2**

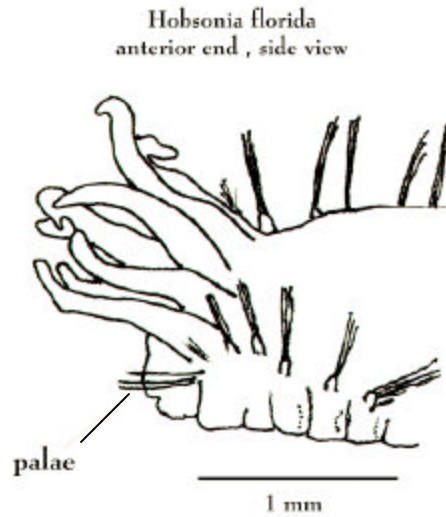
2a. Conspicuous paleae present, roughly equal to, or exceeding the tip of the prostomium in length..**3**

b. Paleae absent, or if present, inconspicuous, definitely shorter than the tip of the prostomium.**6**

3a. Paleae stout and very prominent (see below), appearing to be wider and stronger than notosetae of thorax; 14 pairs of thoracic notosetae present, with 12 thoracic uncinigers; two sets of four branchiae present in a single transverse row; *helpful hint*: paleae appear to have a golden shine, and their tips are slightly bent.....**4**

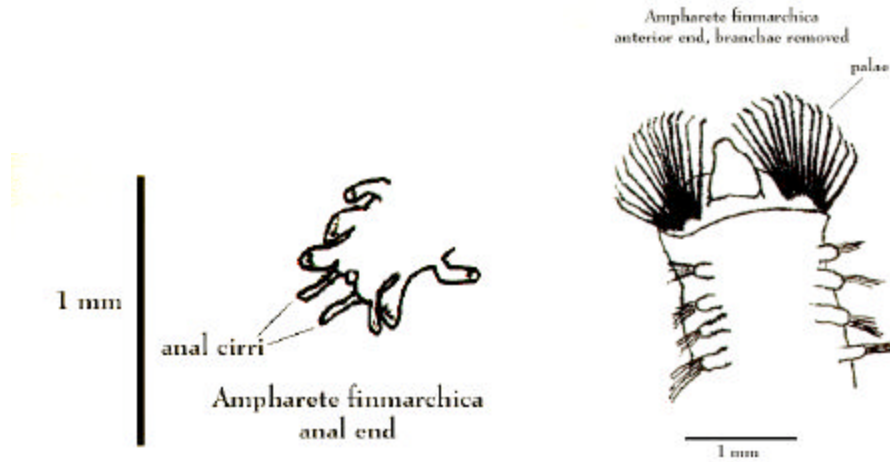


b. Paleae thin, resembling capillary notosetae of thorax (see below); 17 pairs of thoracic notosetae present, with 14 thoracic uncinigers; four pairs of two branchiae present arranged in two transverse rows.....**5**



4a. Anal end surrounded by about 20 anal cirri; 12 abdominal setigers present**Ampharete acutifrons**

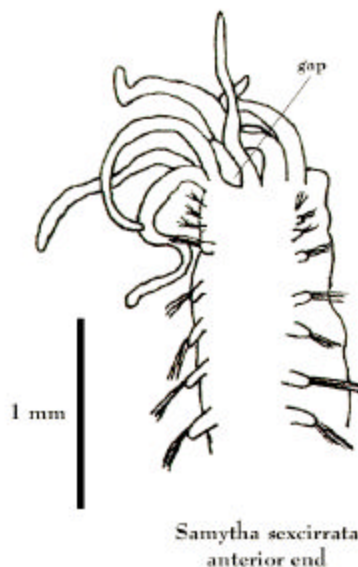
b. Anal end with 2 long cirri present (see below, left); 13 abdominal setigers present
**Ampharete finmarchica**



5a. 25-28 abdominal segments present; abdominal notopodial rudimets nearly absent;
helpful hint: this species is usually found in salt marshes, intertidal mud, areas of lower
 salinity.**Hobsonia florida**

b. 12-16 abdominal segments present; large, abdominal notopodial rudimets present,
 decreasing in size posteriorly; *helpful hint*: found intertidally, but more common in
 deeper, higher salinity waters.**Amphicteis gunneri**

6a. Capilliform notosetae on 17 segments; *helpful hints*: two sets of three branchiae
 present, the two sets are widely separated (see below); uncini begin at setiger 4; the
 notosetae of the first three setigers are shorter and less conspicuous than the following
 thoracic notosetae; 13 abdominal setigers present**Samytha sexcirrata**



b. Capilliform notosetae on 15 or less segments.....7

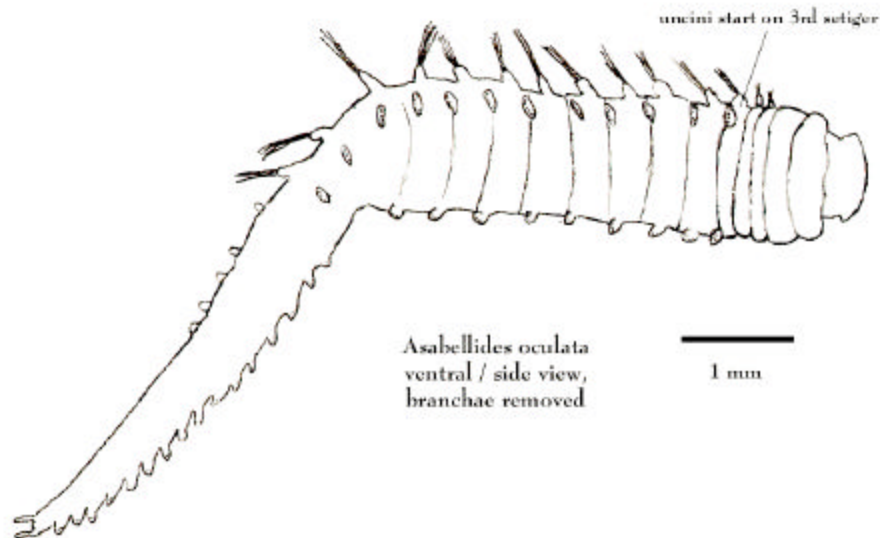
7a. Two sets of three branchiae present; *helpful hints*: capilliform notosetae on 15 segments, uncini begin at setiger 4; 29-31 abdominal segments present .
.....**Samythella elongata**

b. Two sets of four branchiae present; *helpful hint*: less than 15 segments with capilliform notosetae, not including paleae, if present.8

8a. 11 thoracic uncinigers present; *helpful hints*: 13 capilliform notosetae present, which does not include the short paleae that are present on segment 3; uncini begin on setiger 4 (the first three setigers, including segment 3 with the paleae are without uncini); paleae scarcely perceptible; 15-18 abdominal segments present; branchiae are fairly long
.....**Sabellides octocirrata**

b. 12 thoracic uncinigers present.9

9a. Uncini begin on third setiger (see below); small, inconspicuous paleae absent
.....**Asabellides oculata**



b. Uncini begin on fourth setiger; small, inconspicuous paleae present on segment 3 (the paleae count as the first setiger).10

10a. Innermost pair of branchiae much shorter than the others; outermost pair of branchiae are the longest; the two groups of four branchiae are separated by a gap; thoracic uncini with two rows of three teeth.....**Ampharete parvidentata**

b. Branchiae not significantly different in lengths; branchiae not separated by an obvious gap; thoracic uncini with two rows of five teeth.....**Ampharete americana**

Amphinomidae

1a. Small, distinct eyes present; head not raised posteriorly into a lobe; branchiae present from setigers 3 to 35 or more; body tapers gradually posteriorly; *helpful hints*: there are actually two pairs of eyes present, the anterior pair are small but distinct, while the posterior pair are difficult to see..**Linopherus ambigua**

b. Small, very indistinct eyes present; head raised posteriorly into a "heart shaped" lobe; branchiae present from setigers 3 to 25 or less; body more or less moniliform posteriorly; *helpful hint*: there is a single pair of eyes present, but they are very difficult to see, and are without a distinct border to them.....**Linopherus paucibranchiata**

Aphroditidae

Aphrodita hastata is the only species from Virginia

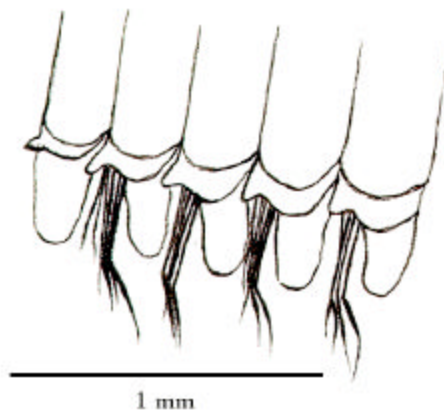
Arabellidae

1a. Parapodia with a prominent, stout, projecting acicula that is blunt, without a small, tapered blade or hood.**3**

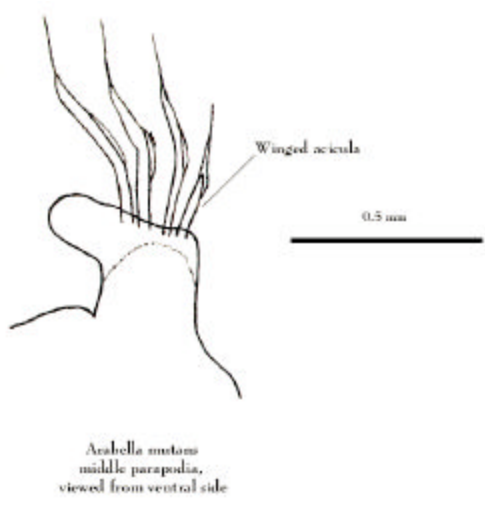
b. Parapodia with acicula absent, or if present they are not prominent or blunt, and they have a small tapered blade or hood at the tip.....**2**

2a. All setae are winged capillaries (see below); maxillae II asymmetrical, the left maxillae has 6 to 8 teeth, and the right maxillae has 12 to 14 teeth**Arabella iricolor**

Arabella iricolor
mid-rear setigers, dorsal view



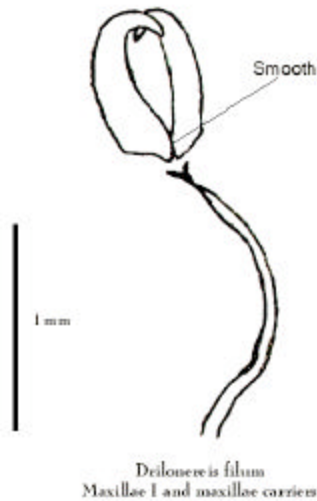
b. Middle and posterior setae have acicula that have a tapered blade or hood (see below); maxillae II symmetrical with 12 to 16 teeth on both the left and the right sides; *helpful hint*: acicula are shorter and slightly stouter than winged capillaries.....**Arabella mutans**



3a. Maxillae I with first tooth not much larger than the others (not falcate); 4 eyes usually present; maxillae II asymmetrical.....**Notocirrus spiniferus**

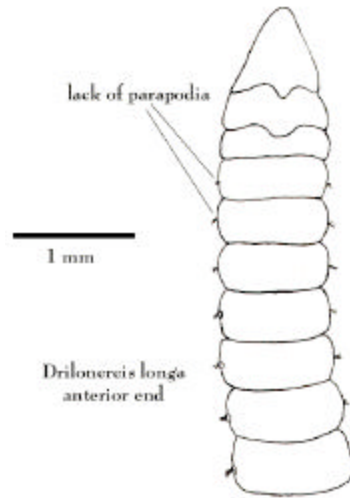
b. Maxillae I with first tooth greatly enlarged, forming pincers (strongly falcate); 4 eyes never present; maxillae II symmetrical.....**4**

4a. Maxillae I with smooth bases, lacking distinct basal denticles (see below)**Drilonereis filum**

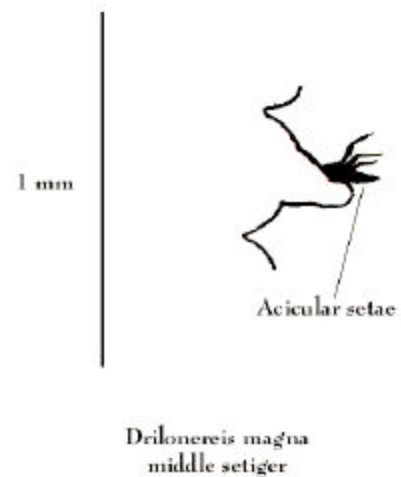
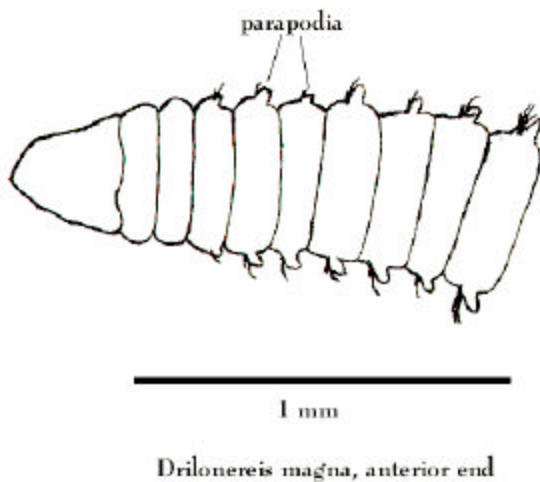


b. Maxillae I with 2 to 4 distinct basal teeth.**5**

5a. Parapodia not evident on anterior end, as setae appear to arise directly from the body (see below); mandibles very small or absent; *helpful hint*: parapodia begin to become evident around setiger 18, or more posteriorly **Drilonereis longa**

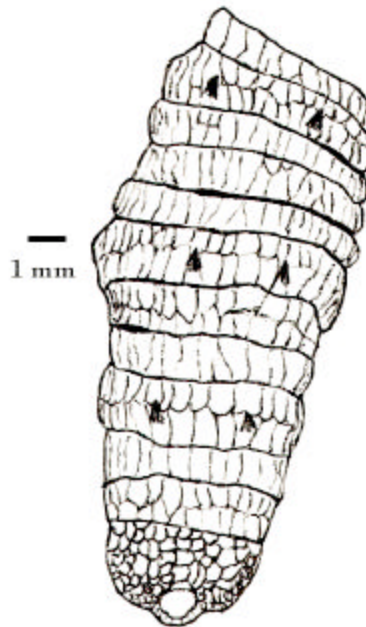


b. Parapodia small, but evident, on anterior end (see below, left); mandibles present and evident; *helpful hint*: parapodia begin to become evident well before setiger 18 **Drilonereis magna**



Arenicolidae

Arenicola cristata (below) is the only species from Virginia



Arenicola cristata
anterior end, dorsal view

Capitellidae

- 1a. Capillary setae present.2
- b. Capillary setae absent..**Amastigos caperatus**
- 2a. Only the first 3 setigers with capillary setae.....**Capitella jonesi**
- b. More than the first 3 setigers with capillary setae.3
- 3a. Only the first 4 setigers with capillary setae..4
- b. More than the first 4 setigers with capillary setae.5

- 4a.** Posterior abdominal region with hooks only.....**Mediomastus californiensis**
- b.** Posterior abdominal region with both hooks and capillary setae, or with capillary setae only; *helpful hint*: the anterior region of the abdomen has no capillary setae, and can be therefore be confused with *M. californiensis*. You generally need a specimen with the first 26 setigers to see the capillary setae**Mediomastus ambiseta**
- 5a.** Only the first 5 setigers with capillary setae.....**Heteromastus filiformis**
- b.** More than the first 5 setigers with capillary setae.....**6**
- 6a.** First 11 setigers with capillary setae.....**7**
- b.** Less than first 11 setigers with capillary setae.....**10**
- 7a.** Setiger 1 with capillary setae in both the noto- and neuropodia.....**8**
- b.** Setiger 1 without capillary setae in the neuropodia, and with capillary setae in the notopodia.**9**
- 8a.** Abdomen with both neuro- and notopodial hooded hooks; *helpful hints*: hoods on hooks are not especially large; branchiae are bulbous or rounded outgrowths ..
.....**Notomastus latericeus**
- b.** Abdomen without notopodial hooded hooks, with neuropodial hooded hooks; *helpful hints*: hoods on hooks are especially large; branchiae strap-like**Notomastus lobatus**
- 9a.** Branchiae present; minute eyespots absent; *helpful hint*: anterior end of body is a dark, purplish-brown color..**Notomastus luridus**
- b.** Branchiae absent; minute eyespots present *helpful hints*: eyespots are difficult to see.
.....**Notomastus hemipodous**
- 10a.** Genital spines absent from setigers 8 and/or 9.....**Capitella capitata** (female)
- b.** Genital spines present on setigers 8 and/or 9.....**11**
- 11a.** Genital spines only present on setiger 9.....**Capitomastus aciculatus** (female)
- b.** Genital spines present on setigers 8 and 9.....**12**
- 12a.** Neuropodia of setiger 8 with some capillary setae ..**Capitomastus aciculatus** (male)
- b.** Neuropodia of setiger 8 without capillary setae, with hooks only .
.....**Capitella capitata** (male)