# Hydroides elegans

## Fouling Serpulid worm

Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
    - Extremely pervasive fouling; outcompetes native species; dramatic alteration of ecosystem
    - An example of this is an oyster fishery in Japan, where H. elegans is said to have caused the death of 60% of stocks, causing a loss of 300 million Yen
    - The fouling habit of this species also causes problems for seawater piping systems
2. Invasive Potential
    - Larvae persist in plankton allowing wider distribution through waves and currents
    - Adults also found adhering to certain seaweeds, providing potential for additional distribution
3. Geographic Extent
    - Regionally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
    - No means of eradication in marine environment
    - Fouling control options include chemical, mechanical, physical

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Unknown, but first described from Sydney Harbor
2. Introduced: Hawai'i, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico
3. Habitats
    - Found sublitorally in tropical and subtropical waters around the world
    - Marine, fouling communities

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Natural spread
3. Stocking in open water

Non-Native Locations

1. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico
2. 64- Eastern Caribbean
3. 152- Hawaiian Islands

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. Frontiers in ecology and the environment. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment