



Polydora ciliata (Leucodore ciliata; aka P. ciliata limicola)

Bristleworm, English polydora

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - Negatively modifies habitat; burrowing into human-made structures; aquaculture pest.
 - High levels of *P. ciliata* infestation tended to weaken the shells of *Mtilus edulis*.
 - This species is a serious oyster and mussel pest, as it burrows into shells, weakening them and making them more prone to predation by organisms such as crabs. It is also able to alter habitats by increasing the amount of mud in an area (due to burrowing activities). This mud can eliminate native flora and fauna (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
 - Larvae of *P. ciliata* are believed to have a pelagic life from 2 -6 weeks before settling and have been collected as far as 118km offshore and along the Belgian coast individuals were found in the plankton all year round with a peak in the summer (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
 - Regionally patchy
4. Management difficulty
 - Copper compounds suggested for control of fouled surfaces. No known eradications for established populations.



Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Berwick Bay, (Great Britain, NE Atlantic)
2. 1838 in Gulf of Aden (reported as *Leucodore ciliatus*)
3. Known to have been introduced in contaminated oyster and shellfish
4. Marine, benthic, shallow lagoons, estuaries/bays
5. A euryhaline species, found in crevices within rocks, on soft sediments and is also recorded as a boring species - burrowing into rocks and mollusk shells.

Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast Water and Sediments
 - Accidental possible
 - Worms attach to ships hulls and may be transported as fouling organisms
2. Natural Spread
 - Probable
 - Cause- planktonic larvae
 - Spread of planktonic larvae in water column
3. Stocking in Open Water
 - Accidental probable
 - Cause- aquaculture
 - Associated with deliberate introductions of fish/shellfish

4. Live Seafood Trade
 - Accidental with fishery products, packing or substrate

Non native locations

1. 40- Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy
2. 41- Virginian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://www.marlin.ac.uk/speciesfullreview.php?speciesID=4165>