

Family MEIOMENIIDAE

Salvini-Plawen, 1985

Taxonomy

Genus **Meioherpia** Salvini-Plawen, 1985

Meioherpia atlantica Salvini-Plawen & Sterrer, 1985

Meioherpia stygalis Salvini-Plawen & Sterrer, 1985

Genus **Meiomenia** Morse, 1979

Meiomenia arenicola Salvini-Plawen & Sterrer, 1985

Meiomenia arenicola Morse, 1979

Quick ID Guide

How to ID: Smooth and shiny animals. Covered in flatly arranged scales and laterally projecting sclerites. Some of the few described solenogaster species inhabiting the pore spaces of marine sediments.

Size: < 1 mm when contracted, up to 2 mm when crawling.

Potential Look-alikes: Might be mixed-up with other families of the order Pholidoskepia (e.g. Dondersiidae). Basis of lanceolate sclerites unique to *Meiomenia*.

Genus Level Identification: Basis of lanceolate sclerites shaped differently. Also differences in number of radula denticles and anatomy (presence/ absence of copulatory spicules, common vs. separate vestibulum and mouth opening).

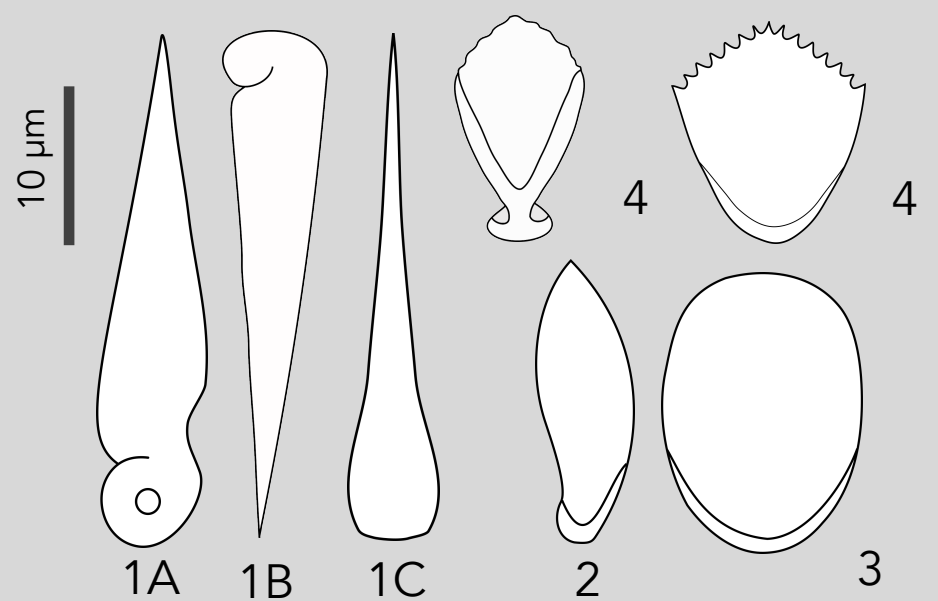
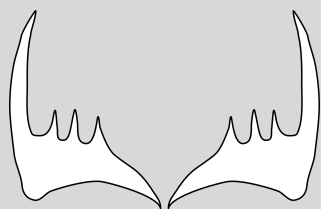


Photo courtesy of Marco Curini Galletti.

Meiomeniidae sp.

Scleritome: Lateral projecting sclerites of *Meiomenia* (1A, 1B) and *Meioherpia* (1C), pedal scale (2), different types of oval body scales (3) and scales from the head region (4).

Distichous radula of Meiomeniidae:



Distribution

Distribution: Recorded from the Northeast Pacific, Western Atlantic, and North Atlantic.

Depth Range: 8- 59 m

