Three-segmented errant juvenile (from the first filled gut until the fourth chaetigerous segment is fully formed)

No lipid droplets visible in the gut. Barrel-shaped midgut filled with food. Settlement metamorphosis completed during this stage. Growth of the fourth chaetigerous segment. Lipid droplets are totally resorbed. Jaws rapidly increase in size. Additional teeth are added. Spinning glands develop and start to form mucus. Palpi elongate slowly. Antennae, antero-dorsal tentacular cirri, palpi and anal cirri elongate rapidly. By the end of this stage, the fourth chaetigerous segment is fully formed.

Late nectochaete (5days-7days)

Antennae elongate, palpi become visible, beginning of food intake. The antennae become long and slender. Palpi form on both sides anterior-laterally to the mouth opening. The gut becomes functional and the larvae begin to feed. The midgut lumen is only slit-like. Lipid droplets begin to be resorbed to variable degree. Jaws grow rapidly and a secondary tooth is added. Transition progresses from pelago-benthic to fully benthic lifestyle. Brain continues to grow rapidly. Two additional serotoninergic cells in the brain. Musculature around the stomodeum increases in complexity and a basket of muscles develops around the jaws to form the pharynx. Muscles and nerves, which are associated with the developing antennae, tentacular cirri, palpi and anal cirri increase in length. End of synchronized development between individuals.

Three-segmented errant juvenile (from the first filled gut until the fourth chaetigerous segment is fully formed)

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4- and 5-segmented errant juveniles (completion of fourth chaetigerous segment to cephalic metamorphosis)

Fourth chaetigerous body segment fully formed; fifth chaetigerous segment growing or fully formed. Jaws grow rapidly and additional teeth are added. The antero-ventral tentacular cirri form. Fifth chaetigerous segment is formed by the posterior growth zone. Pharynx develops into an eversible proboscis.