

SCAMIT Code: LACO 44

Date examined: January 14, 1985
Voucher by: Ann Martin

Synonymy:

Lepidepcreum ? gurjanovae Hurley 1963 (from Barnard, 1969)
Lepidepcreum sp. A. of Martin

Literature:

Barnard, J.L. 1969. Gammaridean Amphipoda of the rocky intertidal of California Monterey Bay to La Jolla. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 258:230 p.

Diagnostic characters:

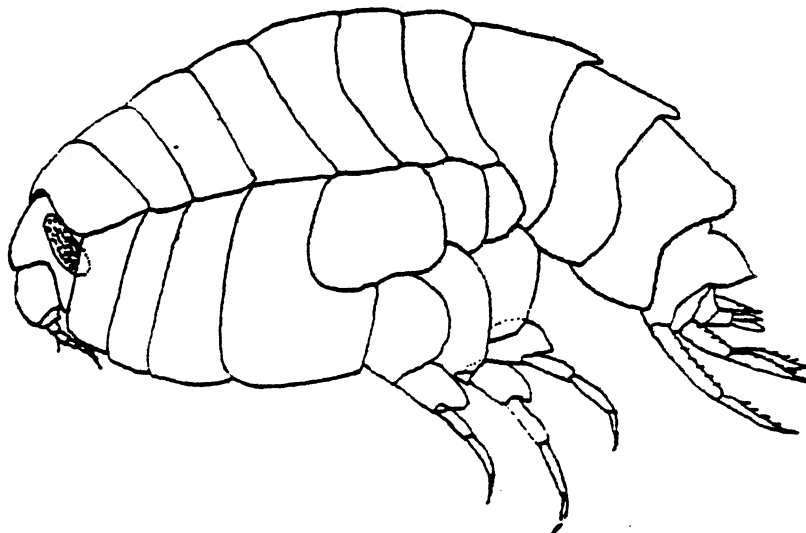
1. Dorsal carination on pleonite 4 very pronounced (Fig. 1).
2. Dorsal carination of pleonites 1-3 clearly visible, not as pronounced as on pleonite 4 (Fig. 1).
3. Gnathopod 2, article 6 oval, produced antero-ventrally forming a chela with article 7 (Fig. 2).

Variability:

1. Carination on pleonite 4 varies in shape but not in size (Fig.).
2. Larger specimens have coxae, pereopods, and antennae peduncle covered with "fur" visible at higher magnifications.

Related species and character differences:

This species is similar to L. gurjanovae but differs in many, mostly subtle characters. The most obvious difference is the shape of gnathopod 2; sp. A. is chelate and gurjanovae is subchelate. Also, species A has fewer spines on pereopods 5-7, uropods, telson, and mandible palp than L. gurjanovae, and occurs in more shallow waters.



Depth range:
Intertidal - 153 m.

Distribution:
Pt. Loma to British Columbia.

Ecology:
In southern California - silty sediments in King Harbor; in British Columbia intertidal. Because it is consistently found around the Orange County sewer outfall and is present in Los Angeles Harbor, this species may be attracted to organically enriched habitats.

Comments:
Barnard (1969) first assigned this species to L. gurjanovae provisionally until more specimens could be studied. Many specimens have been studied from southern California (by Ann Martin) and from British Columbia by Norma Jarrett. Both M. Jarrett and I have concluded that this is a separate and distinct species from L. gurjanovae.

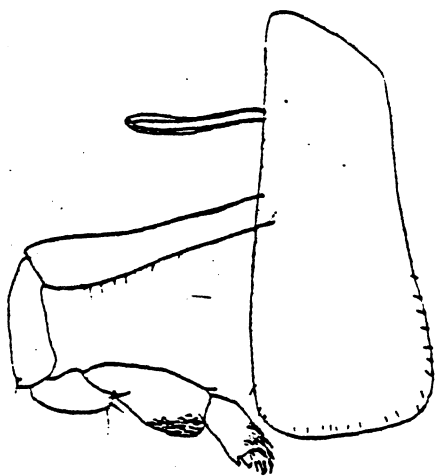


Figure 2. Gnathopod 2



Figure 3. Variation of carination