

SCAMIT Code: LACO 43, SCCWRP 50

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

Synonymy:

Anonyx pinguis Boeck, 1861
Orchomenella pinguis (Boeck, 1861)

Literature:

Barnard, J.L. 1967. Bathyal and abyssal gammaridean amphipoda of Cedros Trench Baja California. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 260:205 p.

Diagnostic characters:

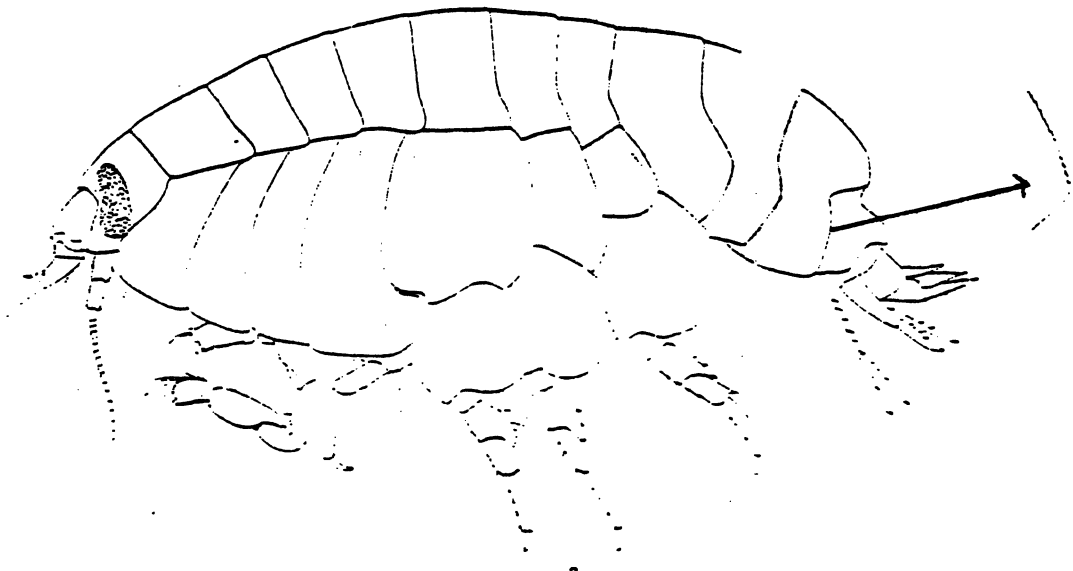
1. 3rd pleon epimeron subquadrate, hind edge with minute serrations (Fig. 1)
2. Gnathopod 1 subchelate, article 6 tapering distally; article 7 lacking inner tooth (Fig. 2).
3. Gnathopod 2 chelate (Fig. 3).
4. Pereiopod dactyls stout and falcate (Fig. 1).
5. Posterior excavation of coxa 4 very deep.

Variability:

Orchomene pinguis exhibits geographic variability. Individuals from southern California are characterized by narrower lateral cephalic lobes, large eyes, broader lobes of article 5 of gnathopod 1 and article 6 of gnathopod 2, longer and more slender pereiopods 5-7, and the lack of lateral ridge on article 2 of pereiopod 4 (Barnard, 1967).

Related species:

Orchomene pinguis is very similar to O. obtusa but differs in having an acutely rounded eyelobe rather than obtusely rounded, a chelate gnathopod instead of subchelate, and minute serrations on the 3rd pleon epimeron instead of a smooth edge. The latter two characters are only visible under high magnification.



Depth range:
64-183 m.

Distribution:
Pacific and Atlantic oceans in cold temperate and subarctic seas.

Ecology:
Although this species rarely is collected from benthic sediment samples, large aggregations have been attracted to baits in crab traps. For example, the voucher specimen was collected by Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts from a crab trap taken in a 60 m trawl, hundreds of the amphipods were feeding on a shark's skull within in the trap.



Figure 2. Gnathopod 1
(from Barnard, 1967)

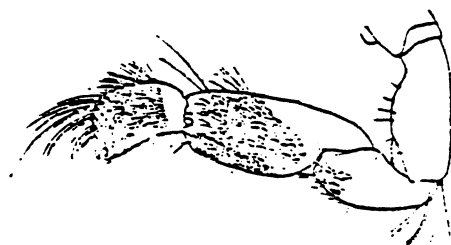


Figure 3. Gnathopod 2
(from Barnard, 1967)