

From  
July/August, 2006 Vol. 25, No. 2 SCAMIT Newsletter

ver. 070220 RCR

*Pista* spp

Leslie then started on the topic of the morning, problems with *Pista*. Leslie has examined most of the type specimens of species of *Pista* that occur in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. She has categorized the species into two distinct groups. The first group is *Pista cristata* sensu stricto, the "classic *cristata*". Species in this group have two pairs of branchiae and three pairs of nephridia. The second group is represented by *Betapista dekkeræ* holotype which has three pairs of branchiae and multiple pairs of nephridia. Banse's specimen was aberrant in which the branchiae start on segment 2, but he described it as starting on segment 3 which places it back into *Pista*.

Leslie went on to compare different character states of these two species groups such as the shape of uncini and ventral shield structure. Leslie believes that *Betapista* is a good name. Specimens are characterized by 3 pairs of branchiae, starting on segment 2, multiple pairs of nephridia, uncini with a large hook on a long shaft, and heavily crenulated and convoluted ventral shields. Under this scheme, *Pista elongata*, *P. dekkeræ*, *P. moorei*, and *P. pacifica* would move into *Betapista*.

Leslie explained that *P. agassizi* should change to *P. brevibranchiata* Moore 1923 and that it agreed with ICZN 1999 in using the first available name. The holotype of *P. agassizi* is Mendocino, California. Leslie has come across specimens recently while working on an outer coast survey. *P. agassizi* is a good species and lives in the intertidal and subtidal on hard bottom habitats. In comparison, *P. brevibranchiata* lives in soft bottom habitats, has thicker, more rigid tubes, has thousands of small eggs, and has a different staining pattern of the ventral shields and dorsum.

Leslie presented a list of the current species of *Pista* and their status based on her recent research:

*P. agassizi* – goes to *P. brevibranchiata* Moore 1923  
*P. alata* – valid  
*P. bansei* – goes to *P. estevanica*  
*P. brevibranchia* – goes to *P. brevibranchiata* Moore 1923  
*P. cristata* – not on this coast  
*P. disjuncta* – still in question  
*P. elongata* – Group 2 *elongata*  
*P. estevanica* – valid  
*P. fasciata* - ?? type specimen in poor shape  
*P. moorei* - goes to Group 2 *moorei*  
*P. pacifica* – goes to Group 2 *pacifica*  
*P. percyi* – goes to *P. brevibranchiata*  
*P. wui* – valid  
*Betapista dekkeræ* – valid

After lunch, we viewed many specimens under the microscope. First up was *Pista* sp SF 1 from San Francisco Bay collected by Dot Norris. This specimen had dorsal staining only on setiger 1, branchiae with brown pigment, and eyes. Leslie offered to send an e-mail to the SCAMIT listserver with an attachment of the image.