

A Key to the Likely Encountered Southern California Genera of the Family Melitidae

- 1) U3 inner ramus scale-like, very reduced.....2
 - U3 inner ramus not scale-like, not reduced.....4
- 2) Pleosome not dorsally toothed; Coxae 1-4 not cusate on distal margin.....3
 - Pleosome dorsally toothed; Coxae 1-4 cusate on distal margin**Megamoera**
- 3) G2, male, palm oblique with hinged tooth.....**Desdimelita**
 - G2, male, palm subchelate without hinged tooth.....**Melita**
- 4) Pleosome not dorsally toothed.....5
 - Pleosome dorsally toothed.....8
- 5) Pleosome without presence of setae (asetose).....6
 - Pleosome with presence of setae (slightly setose).....**Elasmopus**
- 6) U3 not elongate and conspicuous.....7
 - U3 elongate and conspicuous.....**Maera**
- 7) G2, male, palm subchelate; E3 hind corner acute but not produced, U3 apical spines small; Telson, apical spines small.....**Lupimaera**
 - G2, male, palm chelate; E3 hind corner acute and produced; U3 apical spines long (1/2 length of rami); Telson, apical spines long (equal in length to the telson).....**Quadrimaera**
- 8) Antenna 2 significantly shorter than Antenna 1; G2, male, palm oblique, dactyl normal; E3 produced with unique upper and lower scalloped margins.....**Ceradocus**
 - Antenna 2 not significantly shorter than Antenna 1; G2, male, palm chelate, gigantic like a fiddler crab, dactyl immense and thick; E3 not produced but with acute hind corner.....**Dulichella**