

SCAMIT Code: Hyp 45, SCCWRP 57

Date examined: June 10, 1985
Voucher by: Jimmy D. Laughlin

Synonymy:

Photis californica J.L. Barnard, 1954.

Literature:

Shoemaker, C.R. 1942. Amphipod crustaceans collected on the Presidential Cruise of 1938. *Smithson. Misc. Coll.* 101(11):1-52, 17 figs.

Barnard, J.L. 1962. Benthic Marine amphipoda of Southern California: 1. Aoridae, Photidae, Ischyroceridae, Corophiidae, Podoceridae. *Pac. Nat.* Vol. 3(1).

Diagnostic characters:

- Male gnathopod 2 article 7 stout with the inner edge bearing a large bump and distially a single serration or notch on the inner edge which in young males is a spine, later fused in adults (Fig. 1).

Variability:

Juvenile males will have an underdeveloped bump on article 7 of gnathopod 2.

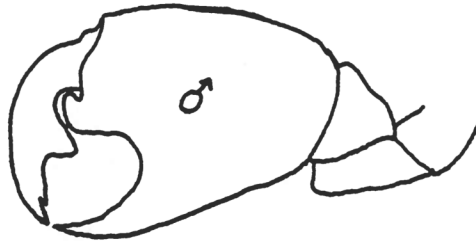


Figure 1. (after Barnard 1962).

Related species and character differences:

P. brevipes adult males are most closely related to P. californica. Article 7 of gnathopod 2 is more slender in P. californica than in P. brevipes and the small bump on the inner edge of juvenile males of both species decreases in P. californica and increases in size in P. brevipes. The adults of P. brevipes (8mm) are much larger than adults of P. californica (4-5mm) (Barnard, 1962). In P. californica the hind tooth of the palm on gnathopod 2 starts to gape in terminal adult so that if the dactyl lacks the inner bump the specimen may be identified as P. californica, even though it may have the size of a young P. brevipes (Barnard, 1962).

Depth range:
0-183m.

Distribution:
Coos Bay Oregon to Bahia Magdalena, Baja California.

Ecology:
This species shows a strong affinity for Diopatra, Listriolobus, Nothria and Amphiodia communities with an average density of 34 individuals per square meter and up to 232 individuals per square meter (Barnard, 1962).

Comments:
The females of the genus Photis are at the present time indistinguishable. We have decided to leave all females and juveniles with the Photis sp. designation until this problem can be resolved.