

SCAMIT Code: HYP 45

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

Literature:

Stout, V.R. 1913. Studies in Laguna Amphipoda. Zool. Jahrb., Syst. 34(5/6): 633-659. 3 figs.

Barnard, J. Laurens 1962. Benthic Marine Amphipoda of Southern California: 1. Families Aoridae, Photidae, Ischyroceridae, Corophiidae, Podoceridae. Pac. Nat. Vol. 3(1).

Diagnostic characters:

1. Male gnathopod 2 dactyl stout, lacking large bump on posterior edge, palm transverse with quadrate evagination. Ventral lobe of article 5 triangular, 2/3 length of article 5 (Fig 1).
2. Numerous long setae on ventral edges of coxae.
3. Has pigment bands on ends of art. 1 of ant. 1 and 2, especially when broken off.
4. Usually larger in size than *P. brevipes*.

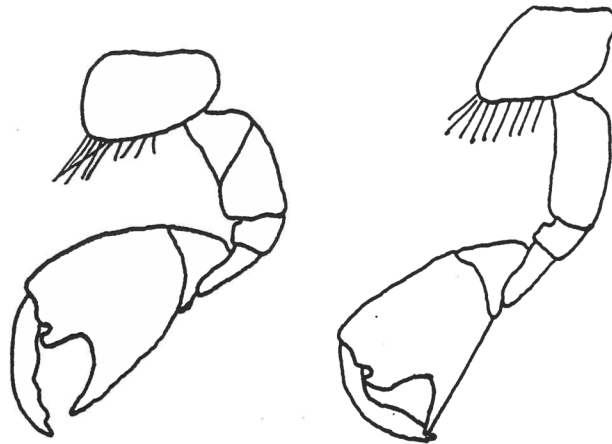


Figure 1. (after Barnard, 1962).

Variability:

Male gnathopod 2 varies with developmental stages. Pigmentation also varies from individual to individual.

Related species and character differences:

P. californica is most closely related to P. brevipes but differs in lacking the bump on the inner edge of the dactyl, dactyl is more stout than the dactyl of P. brevipes. P. californica typically mature at a smaller size than P. brevipes.

Depth range:

Intertidal to 98m.

Distribution:

Moss Beach, California, to Bahía de San Cristobal, Baja California.

Ecology:

Seems to prefer Amphiodia community to Diopatra community where P. brevipes is dominant (Barnard 1969).

Comments:

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