

Key to the stenothoids reported from Central and Southern California (loosely based on Thomas and McCann 1997)

- 1a. Eyes absent; no pigmented ommatidea present (note: males of *Metopa samsiluna* are reported to have very faint, hardly pigmented eyes with scattered ommatidea – these are lacking in the females).....2
- b. Eyes present; pigmented, composed of multiple ommatidea.....3

- 2a. Epimeron 2 bearing a small ventral tooth; epimeron 3 posterior corner projecting posteriorly as a blunt tooth; coxa 1 and 2 posterior distal margins lacking spines*Proboloides tunda*
- b. Epimeron 2 posterior edge straight; epimeron 3 posterior margin subquadrate; coxae 1 and 2 with posteriodistal spines on margin.....*Metopa samsiluna*

- 3a. Antenna 1 article 1 produced anterodistally; pereonite 4 swollen dorsally.....*Hardametopa nasuta*
- b. Antenna 1 article 1 not produced; pereonite 4 not swollen dorsally.....4

- 4a. Telson armed with spines and/or setae dorsally.....7
- b. Telson without spines or setae dorsally.....5

- 5a. Pereopod 6 basis expanded, bearing quadrate posterior lobe; eye very large, occupying more than ½ head.....*Stenula modosa*
- b. Pereopod 6 basis linear, lacking quadrate posterior lobe; eye normal, occupying less than ½ head.....6

- 6a. Pereopod 7 basis with posterior lobe weak proximally and disappearing distally*Parmetopella sp 1*
- b. Pereopod 7 basis with posterior lobe broad, subquadrate, not tapering, as wide distally as proximally.....*Stenothoides burbancki*

- 7a. Pereopod 6 basis linear, lacking any posterior lobe.....8
- b. Pereopod 6 basis with small or large posterior lobe.....12

- 8a. Pereopod 7 basis with posterior lobe broad, subquadrate, not tapering, as wide distally as proximally.....9
- b. Pereopod 7 basis with posterior lobe either little or well developed proximally, but tapering distally.....10

- 9a. Telson with distinct spines dorsally.....*Stenothoides bicoma*
- b. Telson with only small setules dorsally.....*Stenula incola*

- 10a. Pereopod 7 basis with posterior lobe strongly expanded proximally, disappearing distally.....*Mesometopa neglecta roya*
- b. Pereopod 7 basis posterior lobe weakly expanded proximally, tapering distally.....11

- 11a. Accessory flagellum present; G1, propod linear, shorter than carpus
..... *Metopella aporpis*
b. Accessory flagellum absent; G1, propod slightly expanded, equal in length to carpus
.....*Parametopella ninis*
- 12a. Telson with two pairs of dorsal spines.....*Metopa cistella*
b. Telson with three or four pairs of dorsal spines.....13
- 13a. G1 carpus much longer than merus.....*Metopa dawsoni*
b. G1 carpus shorter than or subequal to merus.....*Stenothoe* 14
- 14a. Telson lacking dorsal setae or setules.....*Stenothoe frecanda*
b. Telson with one or two pairs of dorsal setae or setules.....15
- 15a. In both sexes G2 palm not differentiated from rest of propod; spines and/or setae on
palm of uniform size throughout.....*Stenothoe valida*
b. In both sexes, G2 palm differentiated from propod posterior ventral margin; heel of
palm bearing several enlarged spines.....*Stenothoe estacola*