

Character differences between the following Caridean families:

Alpheidae, Hippolytidae, and Crangonidae

Alpheidae

Carapace with cardiac notch in posterior margin

Eyes partly or entirely covered by carapace (except in Automate)

First pair of pereopods often unequal and swollen

Rostrum sharp, short face, without teeth or rostrum occasionally absent

Hippolytidae

Carapace without cardiac notch

Eyes free

First pair of pereopods usually equal, not swollen

Rostrum generally serrate but not very long

Crangonidae

Carpus of second pair of pereopods not subdivided

First pereopod subchelate, dactylus closing against the subtruncate distal margin of the propodus which often ends in a spine.