
SCAMIT Code: LACO 77, HYP62, MBC 57 Date Examined: August 11, 1986
Voucher by: Ann Martin

SYNONYMY: Inachus tuberculatus Lockington, 1877
Inachoides magdalensis Rathbun, 1893
Inachoides tuberculatus Schmitt, 1921

LITERATURE: Garth, J.S. 1958. Brachyura of the Pacific Coast of America Oxyrhynga. Allan Hancock Pac. Exped. Vol. 21, Part 1 and 2.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Carapace pyriform, very convex, and tuberculate with three medial tubercles.
2. Postorbital spine large, curved forward around eye, eye rests closely to spine.
3. Hepatic spine softly rounded, extending slightly beyond postorbital spine.
4. Mature male chelipeds inflated and tuberculate (Fig. 1), female chelipeds slender (Fig. 2).
5. Male pleopod 1 as illustrated (Fig. 3).

VARIABILITY: Juveniles are longer than wide, have smaller postorbital spines and shorter dactyls. The rostrum is short, developing from a rounded bifid structure to the lengthened adult form (Fig. 4). Carapace tubercles develop with age; the intestinal arising last.

Garth (1958) determined that three races exist: the typical form described above, a northern Gulf of California form, and a southern Gulf of California form. The northern form has a shorter rostrum, a wider carapace with many coarse granules, and a swollen bare hand that Garth designated as a subspecies P. t. mexicana. The southern form, called variety A by Rathbun (1925), has a long rostrum, laterally directed postorbital spines and few granules on the walking legs.

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

Garth (1958) noted that juveniles are similar to juvenile Inachoides which have smaller post orbital spines and shorter dactyls.

DEPTH RANGE: Intertidal to 400m

DISTRIBUTION: Utria Bay, Columbia to Tomales Bay, California

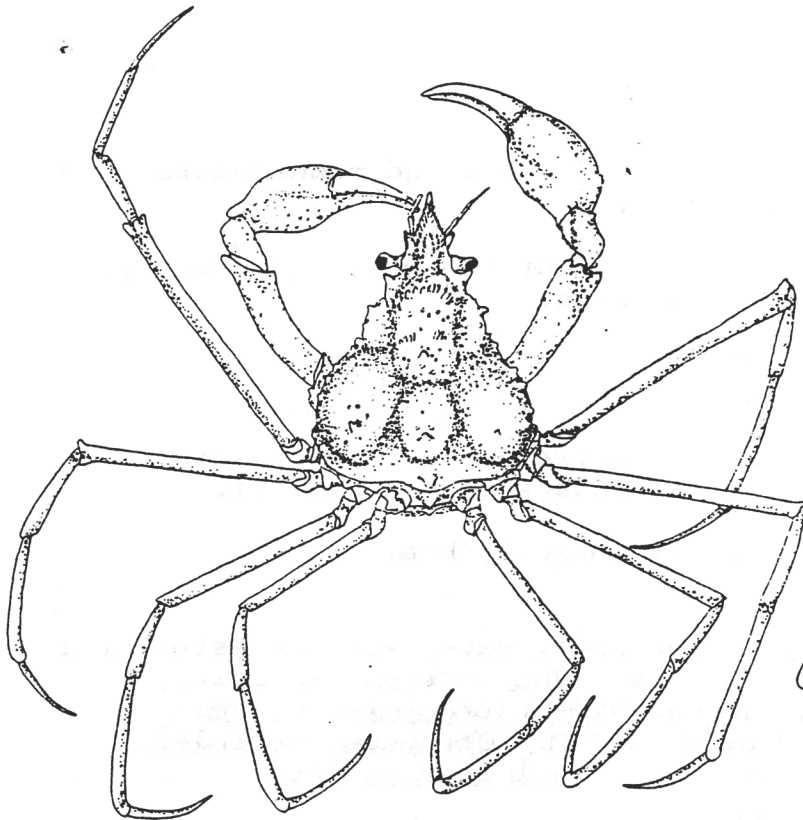


Fig. 1 Male Pyromaia tuberculata

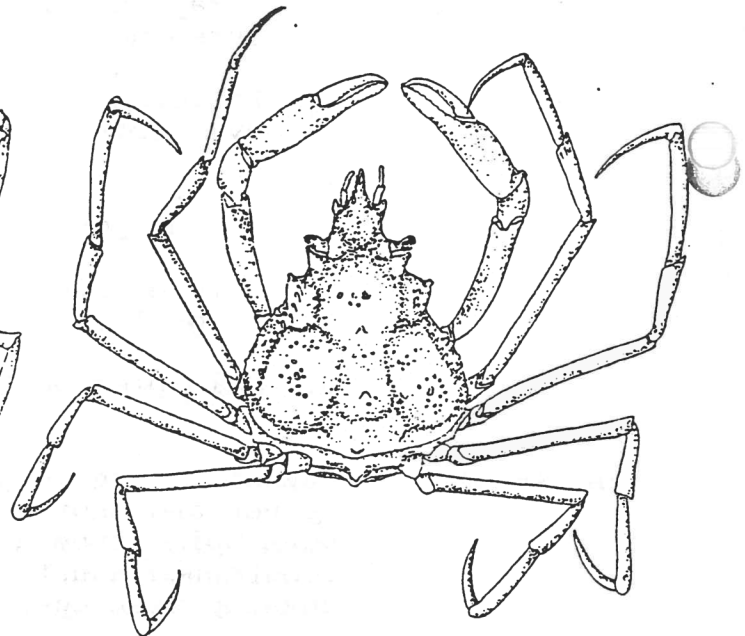


Fig. 2 Female Pyromaia tuberculata