

## KEY TO THE SO. CALIFORNIA BIGHT CRANGONID SHRIMP

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(based on Word & Charwat 1976, Kuris & Carlton 1977, Wicksten 1977, and Butler 1980)

1. Dactyls of 4th and 5th legs flattened; eyes partly concealed by carapace ..... *Argis* 2  
Dactyls of 4th and 5th legs not flattened; eyes not partly concealed ..... 3
2. Carapace with 2 median dorsal spines posterior to rostral spine ..... *Argis californiensis*  
Carapace with 4 median dorsal spines posterior to rostral spine ..... *Argis levior*
3. Abdominal somites heavily sculptured; 3rd abdominal somite with rostrate posterior margin,  
4th and 5th with posteriomedial spine ..... *Rhynocrangon alata*  
Abdominal somites weakly sculptured or unsculptured; 3rd abdominal somite not posteriorly  
produced, 4th and 5th somites lacking posteromedial spine (may be carinate) ..... 4
4. Gastric region of carapace depressed ..... 5  
Gastric region not depressed below general level of carapace ..... 7
5. 1-2 spines ventrally on abdominal pleura ..... *Metacrangon spinosissima*  
Abdominal pleura without ventral spines ..... 6
6. Carapace lacking lower submedian spine ..... *Metacrangon munita*  
Carapace with lower submedian spine ..... *Mesocrangon munitella*
7. Carapace with 1 median dorsal spine ..... *Crangon* 8  
Carapace with 2 median dorsal spines ..... *Neocrangon* 13
8. Sixth abdominal somite with bold lateral blue pigment spot(s) ..... *Crangon nigromaculata*  
Sixth abdominal somite lacking lateral pigment spot ..... 9
9. Inner flagellum of antenna one distinctly longer than outer ..... 10  
Inner and outer flagella of antenna one of equal length ..... *Crangon handi*
10. Sixth abdominal somite grooved ventrally ..... 11  
Sixth abdominal somite not grooved ventrally ..... 12
11. Spine of antennal scale extending well past end of blade ..... *Crangon alaskensis*  
Spine of antennal scale not or barely extending past end of blade ..... *Crangon nigricauda*
12. Ischium of 3rd maxilliped flattened and laterally flanged ..... *Crangon alba*  
Ischium of 3rd maxilliped not especially flattened and not flanged ..... *Crangon holmesi*
13. Third through fifth abdominal somites dorsally carinate ..... *Neocrangon communis*  
Abdominal somites not dorsally carinate ..... 14
14. Rostrum bearing terminal "moustache" of setae projecting obliquely downward; rostrum variable,  
typically horizontal or slightly elevated ..... *Neocrangon zaca*  
Rostrum with lateral field of setae, but lacks "moustache"; rostrum variable, typically bearing a  
ventral blade, and strongly elevated above horizontal ..... *Neocrangon resima*