

Key to the species of the Genus Heptacarpus

(epipod, exopod characteristics are unknown for *H. amiabilis* or *H. layi*, they are not included in key, either *Heptacarpus* or *Eualus*; refer to their descriptions when identifying specimens)

1. Third maxillipeds lack epipods.....2  
Third maxillipeds have epipods.....3
2. Rostrum has no dorsal spines on anterior half.....  
..... *H. tenuissimus*  
Rostrum has dorsal spines on anterior half.....  
..... *H. nr decorus*
3. Pereiopods lack epipods.....4  
Pereiopods have epipods.....12
4. Rostrum is shorter than carapace.....5  
Rostrum is longer than carapace.....6
5. No pterygostomian spine, no spine on the posterior margin  
of 4th abdominal segment..... *H. brachydactylus*  
Pterygostomian spine present, spine present on the posterior  
margin of the 4th abdominal segment..... *H. maxillipes*
6. Dorsal margin of rostrum lacks teeth on terminal half.....7  
Dorsal margin of rostrum has teeth on terminal half.....8
7. Pterygostomian spine present..... *H. tridens*  
Pterygostomian spine absent..... *H. stylus*
8. Sixth abdominal segment longer than telson..... *H. decorus*  
Sixth abdominal segment shorter than telson.....9
9. 3rd maxillipeds nearly reach the tip of the antennal scale.  
..... *H. kincaidi*  
3rd maxillipeds nearly or just slightly extending beyond  
1/2 of the antennal scale.....10
10. Pterygostomian spine present.....11  
Pterygostomian spine absent..... *H. franciscana*
11. Dorsal margin of rostrum nearly a straight line.....  
..... *H. cumtschatica*  
Dorsal margin of rostrum slightly concave.... *H. nr decorus*

12. Epipods present on the first pereopods only.....13  
 Epipods present on the 1st and 2nd pereopods, or 1st, 2nd  
 and 3rd pereopods.....14
13. Rostrum longer than carapace..... *H. moseri*  
 Rostrum shorter than carapace..... *H. sitchensis*
14. Epipods present on 1st and 2nd pereopods only.....15  
 Epipods present on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd pereopods.....17
15. Rostrum longer than carapace.....16  
 Rostrum shorter than carapace..... *H. pictus*  
 (this group needs study) and *H. nr pictus*
16. Terminal half of rostrum devoid of spines above... *H. flexa*  
 Terminal half of rostrum with spines above... *H. paludicola*
17. Rostrum longer than carapace..... *H. carinatus*  
 Rostrum shorter than carapace.....18
18. Dactyls of pereopods are simple..... *H. stimpsoni*  
 Dactyls of pereopods are biunguiculate.....19
19. Anterior margin of rostrum does not reach to the cornea....  
 ..... *H. taylori*  
 Rostrum extends beyond cornea.....20
20. Antennal scale longer than telson..... *H. palpator*  
 Antennal scale is same length or shorter than the telson...  
 ..... *H. brevirostris*

\*1 The taxonomic distinctions between these two species are not especially satisfactory. The two "species" are very closely related with *H. palpator* occurring south of Point Conception and *H. brevirostris* to the north, along the coastline. Offshore banks and islands in southern California often have specimens which appear to be *H. brevirostris*. Much work needs to be done on this species pair.

\*2 also check the position of pterygostomian

21 nominal species, 1 undescribed and unkeyed, two not included (either *Heptacarpus* or *Eualus*)