VOUCHER SHEET

Species name: Sphaeromatidae sp IS1 **Date Examined:** 5 April 2008
Group: Isopoda, Family Sphaeromatidae **Voucher By:** Donald B. Cadien
Voucher Specimen(s): ISS Outer Coast Yr. 2, Station 406PINROC, subtidal rocky, replicate 1, 16 m, Sample Number 4511. 11 vouchers to MLML, 5 voucher to CDF & G

SYNONYMY: ? may prove to be the undesribed female of *Paracerceis gilliana* (H. Richardson, 1899) pending further specialist investigation

LITERATURE: **Richardson, Harriet. 1905**. A monograph on the isopods of North America. *United States National Museum, Bulletin*, no. 54: 1-727.
Brusca, Richard C., Vania R. Coelho, and Stefano Taiti. 2007. Isopoda. Pp. 503-542 IN: *The Light and Smith Manual: Intertidal Invertebrates from Central California to Oregon. 4th edition.*James T. ed. Carlton. 1001pp. Berkeley, California, U.S.A.: University of California Press.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Uropod outer ramus slightly longer than inner and sharply pointed at mesial corner. Inner and outer rami similar in width.
2. Pleotelson smooth, without granules, nodules, or humps, evenly elevated centrally.
3. Pleotelson posterior margin little upturned, but bearing a deep central excavation. This is circular in smallest individuals, becoming more V shaped with growth.
4. All observed specimens of similar pigmentation, light yellowish ground color, with thin brown stripe along pleonite margins

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

1. Separated from *Dynamenella glabra* (with which it co-occurred) by sharp mesial corner of outer uropodal ramus, and nearly equally long inner and outer ramus (inner much shorter in Dynamenella)
2. Separated from *Paracerceis sculpta* (with which it co-occurred) by lack of sculpture on dorsal side of pleotelson, and shape of posterio-medial excavation. Also separated by pigmentation. None of the *P. sculpta* females had the same base color or striping evident in the Sphaeromatidae sp IS1 females.
3. Separated from *Paracerceis cordata* females by the nature of the pleotelson, and the pigmentation. Numerous females of that species were observed in the survey, but not in the same samples as the present species
4. Separated from all members of *Dynamenella* other than *glabra* by absence of dorsal pleotelsonic sculpture.

DEPTH RANGE: 12-16 m

DISTRIBUTION: known only from Pin Rock, Catalina Island

COMMENTS: if males of this species are taken they should settle the question of whether this is *Paracerceis gilliana* or not. As females of that species are not currently described in the literature, the question remains unresolved. There is nothing in the collected females that precludes their being *Paracerceis*, but given their immaturity and the absence of males it seemed prudent to leave these specimens at family level, while giving them a designation as a different species. They are not females of *Pseudosphaeroma cambellensis*, which has been reported as introduced into San Francisco Bay. Specimens have been forwarded to Dr. Regina Wetzler at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, a specialist on the family, for further investigation.

ILLUSTRATION:

Sphaeromatidae sp 151
♀ pleotelson + uropod

Dynamenella glabra
♀ pleotelson + uropod