

Hemisquilla ensigera californiensis Stephenson, 1967.  
Crustacea: Hoplocarida: Stomatopoda

PL Code C-134

Date examined 22 July, 1988

Voucher by: Larry Basch

Synonymy: Hemisquilla ensigera (Owen, 1832) fide Manning, 1963

Gonodactylus ensiger, Owen, 1832

Gonodactylus styliferus H. Milne-Edwards, 1837

Hemisquilla stylifera Schmitt, 1940

Pseudosquilla bigelowi Rathbun, 1910

Literature: See the following in Stomatopod Bibliography (attached).

Basch and Engle, in press - a & b.

Basch and Engle, in press 1988 in Am.Zool.

Haderlie, et al., 1980

Manning, 1963

Manning, 1980

Schmitt, 1940

Stephenson, 1967

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Rostrum shaped like a triangle with rounded angles.
2. Eyes weakly bilobed, with distinct wide band of ommatidia six cells across, separating dorsal and ventral corneal lobes.
3. Dactylus of maxilliped 2 (thoracopod 2) without spines on inner margin. Heel of dactylus slightly inflated proximally.
4. Telson as figured in Schmitt, 1940, p. 183, and attached table.
5. Body coloration yellow-brown to tan. Distal parts of some limbs yellow. Distal of antennules, maxillipeds, pereopods and pleopods blue. Uropods deep blue, fringed with dark red setae.

Comments: This is the largest of the California stomatopods. It extends from Santa Barbara Co., CA, south to the Golfo di Chiriqui, Panama. Besides its large size, it is the most numerically abundant species in the region, and may occur locally in very dense populations (1/m<sup>2</sup>). Recent work by Basch and Basch and Engle has provided some information on biogeography and local population distribution patterns, seasonal patterns in life history and reproductive ecology, foraging, diel and seasonal activity and other areas. Habitats range from shallow (5m or less) inshore areas commonly down to 70-100m, and to near abyssal depths, where they burrow in stable mud-sand bottom.