

Schmittius politus (Bigelow, 1891) fide Manning, 1972  
Crustacea: Hoplocarida: Stomatopoda.

PL Code: C-212

Date examined 22 July, 198  
Voucher by: Larry Basch

Synonymy: Squilla polita Bigelow, 1891  
Meiosquilla polita (Bigelow, 1891)

Literature: Schmitt, W.L., 1940. The Stomatopods of the West coast of America, based on collections made by the Allan Hancock expeditions, 1933-38. Allan Hancock Pacific Expeditions, 5(4): 129-225. See p. 146 for Squilla polita Bigelow and included references. Refer also to Stomatopod Bibliography.

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Rostrum spade-shaped, posterior margin indented with small lobes extending posterio-laterally.
2. Eyes strongly bilobed, with distinct, narrow median band of ommatidia separating lobes.
3. Dactylus of maxilliped 2 (thoracopod 2) armed with 4 distinct spines, including distal one. Outer margin smooth, curving from distal tip to past the most proximal tooth, followed by a small shoulder before the proximal heel, the latter used for hammering or crushing prey.
4. Telson as figured in Schmitt, 1940 and attached table. Note spination pattern on 6th abdominal segment (pleotelson).
5. Body coloration overall light golden brown, with darker brown pigmented chromatophores scattered randomly throughout body. Some specimens have darker pigments concentrated at the margins of thoracic and abdominal segments. Rostrum and other anterior body regions have dark brown clustered chromatophores.

Comments: This animal is not easily confused with other mantis shrimps in the California region, but has close relatives to the south. It is recorded as far north as Monterey Bay where, if this record is substantiated, it must be very rare. The southern range limit is recorded as off Punta Abreojos, Baja California, Sur, but is likely even further south. It is probably the second most abundant stomatopod in California (after Hemisquilla ensigera californiensis). Habitats range from shallow coastal lagoons in Southern California, to back bay and deep (150m) open ocean soft bottom