

***Americhelidium rectipalmum* (Mills, 1962)**

Nomenclature	
Phylum	Arthropoda
Class	Malacostraca
Order	Amphipoda
Family	Oedicerotidae
Authority	(Mills, 1962)
Original Description	Mills, E.L. 1962.
Common Synonyms (S)	<i>Synchelidium rectipalmum</i>
Previous Names (PN)	



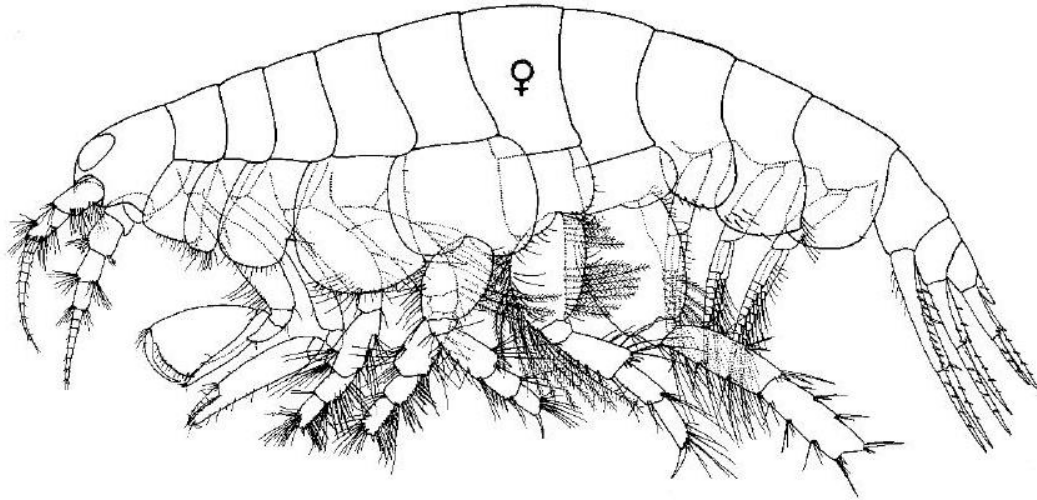
Americhelidium rectipalmum ♀

Distribution	
Type Locality	Parry Passage, Queen Charlotte Island, British Columbia
Geographic Distribution	Unimak Island and Southeastern Alaska to lower California, Costa Rica (Thomas & McCann 1995, Bousfield & Chevrier 1996).
Habitat	Intertidal to 398 m, on silt, sand, or coarser sediments (Thomas & McCann 1995, Bousfield & Chevrier 1996).

Description
From Bousfield and Chevrier 1996
<p>Female: 6.0 mm. Head. Rostrum short, deflexed. Fused eyes large, subapical on rostrum. Antenna relatively long, flagella 8-10 segmented.</p> <p>Coxa 1, hind corner enlarged posteriorly, hind margin with single stout spine, lower margin strongly setose. Coxa 2, hind margin with single spine. G1, basis with strong antero-distal cluster of setae; propod strong, palm weakly toothed, hinged portion perpendicular to axis of propod; carpus narrow, hind lobe slender, apex with single spine, extending slightly beyond palm. G2, basis slender, hind margin with 1-2 long setae; propod relatively short, thick, length 4.5x maximum depth; dactyl strong, length ~1/3 propod.</p> <p>Coxa 4, hind corner acute, not strongly produced. P3&4, distal segments not exceptionally setose; length of segment 6 about 2x depth; dactyl very short. Coxa 5 medium deep, aequilobate, hind lobe weakly setose below. Coxa 6, antero-distal lobe shallow, broadly rounded. P5&6, basis subsimilar, dactyls medium short. P7, basis broadened, hind margin convex, posterodistal lobe medium, not extending beyond ischium; inner facial row of 4-5 plumose setae.</p> <p>Pleon side plate 2, hind corner subquadrate; plate 3 rounded behind. U1-3, outer ramus shorter. U3, inner ramus with 4 marginal spines. Telson broad, apical margin broadly rounded, penicillate setae median.</p>

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Male: 3.5 mm. A1, peduncular segments 2&3 shorter than in female; A2, peduncular segments 4&5 short, lacking anterior marginal brush setae; flagellum 40-45 segmented.



Diagnostic Characteristics

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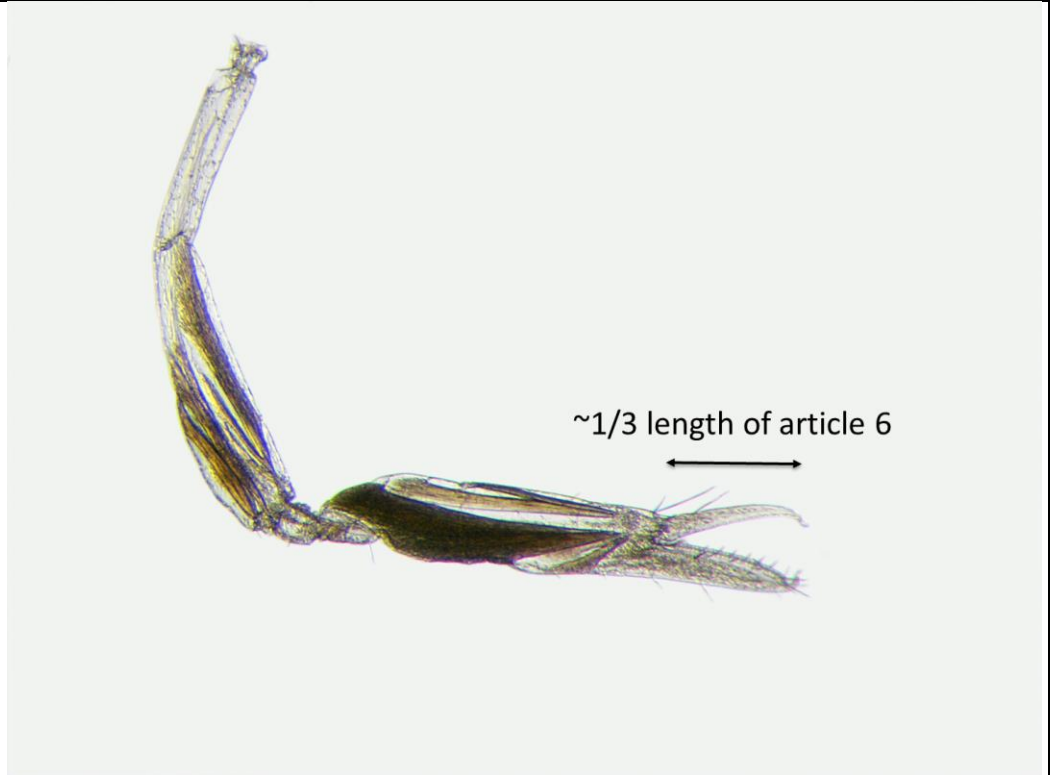
Photo Credits: J. Cordell

Gnathopod 1 palm of article 6 transverse, the lower corner of the palm almost in line with insertion point the dactyl

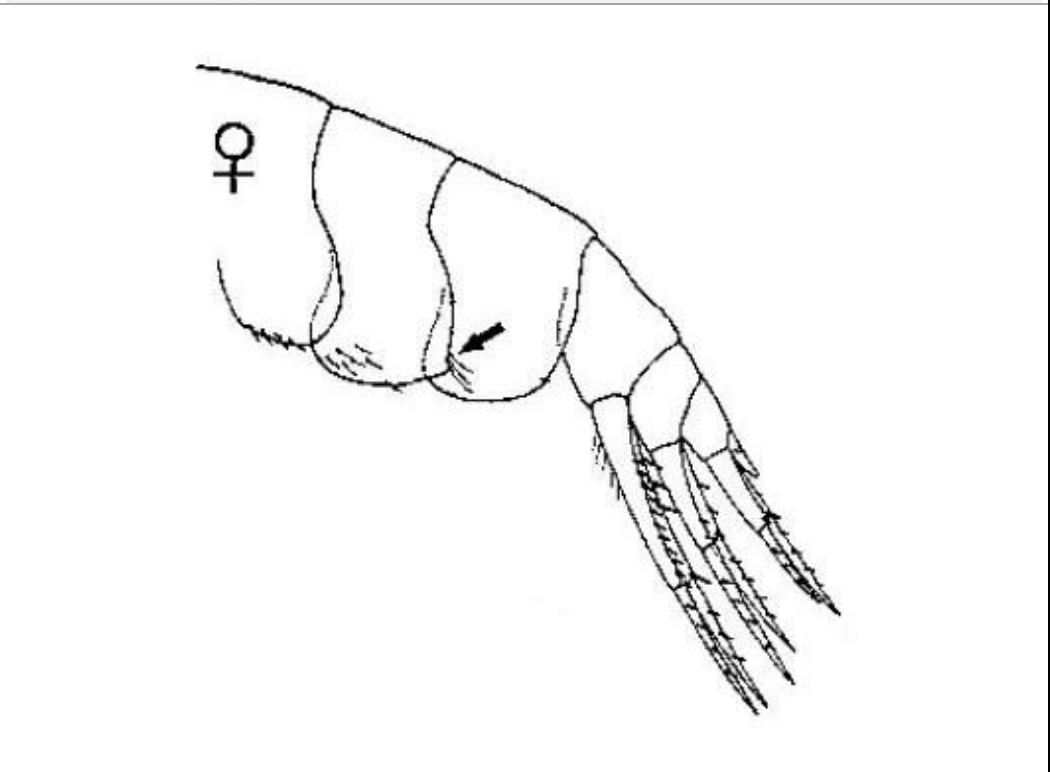


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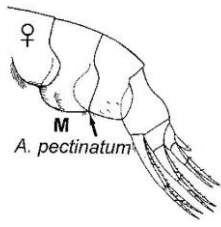
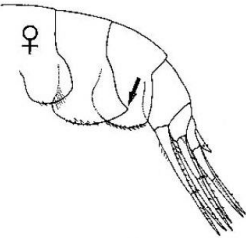
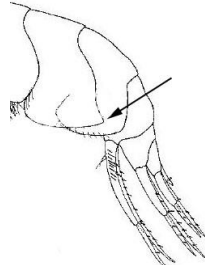
Dactyl of
gnathopod 2
about 1/3 the
length of article
6



Epimeron 3,
hind corner
subquadrate
(illustration from
Chapman 2007)



Americhelidium rectipalpum

Related Species and Characteristic Differences	
Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Americhelidium pectinatum</i>	<p><i>A. pectinatum</i> is similar to <i>A. rectipalpum</i> in having no acute process on the hind corner of epimeron 2 (illustration right, from Chapman 2007). However, in <i>A. pectinatum</i>, the palm of gnathopod 1 is oblique and dactyl of gnathopod 2 less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of article 6.</p> 
<i>Americhelidium shoemakeri</i>	<p>Palm of gnathopod 1 markedly oblique, not transverse; dactyl of gnathopod 2 less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of article 6; epimeron 2, hind corner acutely produced (illustration right, from Chapman 2007).</p> 
<i>Americhelidium millsii</i>	<p>Palm of gnathopod 1 markedly oblique, not transverse; dactyl of gnathopod 2 less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of article 6; epimeron 2, hind corner acutely produced (illustration right, modified from Bousfield and Chevrier 1996).</p> 

Comments

Literature

- Bousfield, E.L. and A. Chevrier. 1996. The Amphipod Family Oedicerotidae on the Pacific coast of North America. Part 1. The *Monoculodes* and *Synchelidium* Generic complexes: Systematics and distributional Ecology. *Amphipacifica* 2(2): 75-148. (pp. 125-126)
- Chapman, J. W. 2007. Gammaridea. In: Carlton, J. T., Eds. *The Light and Smith Manual. Intertidal Invertebrates from Central California to Oregon*. 4th ed. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press. pp. 545-618. (pp. 546, 583, 584)
- Mills, E.L. 1962. Amphipod Crustaceans of the Pacific Coast of Canada. II. Family Oedicerotidae. *Natural History Papers National Museum of Canada*, 15:1-21, 6 figures.
- Thomas J. D. and L.D. McCann. 1995. The families Argisiidae, Dexaminidae, Eusiridae, Gammaridae, Leucothoidae, Melphidippidae, Oedicerotidae, Pardaliscidae, Phoxocephalidae, Podoceridae, Stegocephalidae, Stenothoidae, Stilipedidae, Synopiidae, and Urothoidae. In: Blake J. A., Watling L., Scott P. H., Eds. *Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and the*

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Western Santa Barbara Channel. Volume 12. ISBN 0-93649-17-4. Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Chapter The Crustacea Part 3: The Amphipoda. pp. 21-136. (p. 58)

More Information

More information about Puget Sound benthic invertebrates is available at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/psamp/index.htm>

Prepared by Julianne Ruffner (Department of Ecology) and Jeffery Cordell (University of Washington - Seattle) on 3/15/13. This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1403221.html>.

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