Desdimelita californica (Alderman, 1936)

Nomenclature

Phylum	Arthropoda
Class	Malacostraca
Order	Amphipoda
Family	Melitidae
Authority	(Alderman, 1936)
Original Description	Alderman, A.L. 1936.
Common Synonyms (S) Previous Names (PN)	*Melita californica* (PN) *Abludomelita californica* (PN)

Desdimelita californica (male)

Distribution

Type Locality	
Geographic Distribution	Aleutian Island chain south to central California (Jarrett and Bousfield 1996)
Habitat	In cobbles and fine sediment, from LW to deep subtidal levels (Jarrett and Bousfield 1996)

Description
From Jarrett and Bousfield 1996

Male 11 mm, female 7 mm.

Eye relatively small, rounded; inferior antennal notch relatively broad. A1, peduncle with 3-4 posterior marginal spines; flagellum ~30 segments; accessory flagellum 5-segmented. A2, flagellum 15-segmented, segments weakly setose.

Male, G1 propod slender, a little shorter than carpus, palm strongly oblique, strongly convex; finely spinose. Male G2, carpus, hind lobe narrow, deep; propod a little longer than deep, palm oblique, slightly convex, with low hinge tooth; dactyl heavy, lacking outer marginal setae, inner margin lined with several minute spinules. Female G1, carpus relatively short, deep; propod short, deep, palm nearly vertical. Female G2, propod relatively small; palm oblique, slightly convex, unevenly spinose; dactyl with 2-3 outer marginal setae.

Coxa 1 medium, distally broad, nearly as wide as deep. Coxa 4 relatively narrow, deep. P3 & 4 distinctly unequal; dactyls short, length about 1/3 segment 6. P5-7, bases somewhat unlike; dactyls short, ~<1/5 segment 6. P5, basis distinctly shorter, relatively broad; segment 6 slightly broadened.

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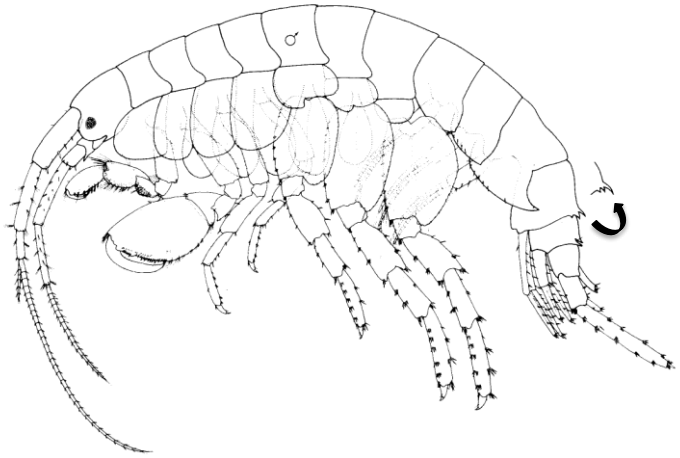
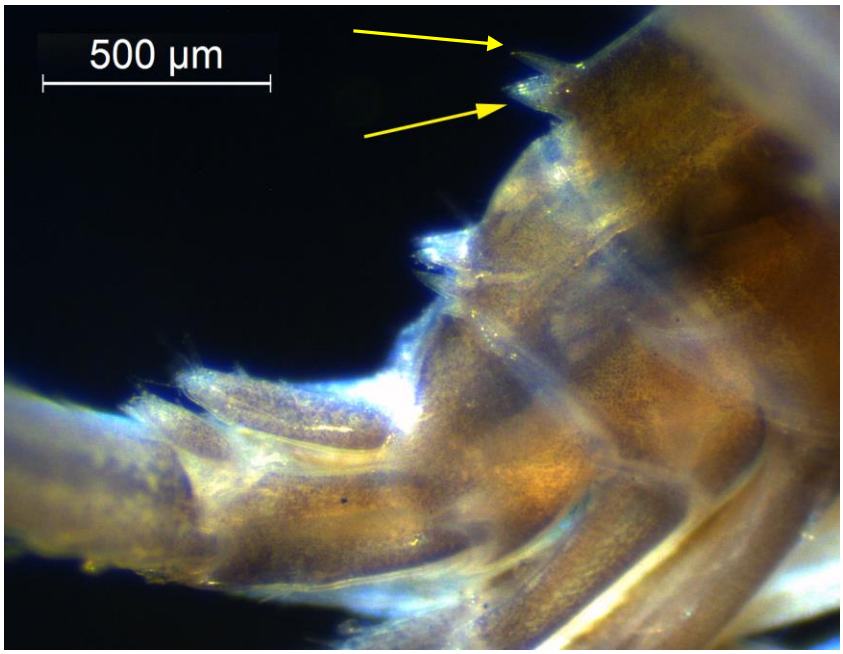
Pleon segment 2 hind corner squared, pleon 3, lower margin with ~ 6 short spines. U1, peduncle relatively long; rami with 3-5 marginal spines. U3, outer ramus with 4-5 groups of marginal spines; terminal segment very short.

Urosome segment 2, posterodorsal tooth slender, with pair of smaller denticles on each side. Urosome segment 2, postero-dorsal paired teeth strong, each encompassing single spine.

Telson, subapical spines short, inner margins with 2 unequal small spines.

Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics	Photo, Illustrations	Photo, Illustration Credit
		Jarrett & Bousfield 1996 (p. 43, fig 27)
Urosomite 1 with 3-5 dorsal lateral teeth (1-2 teeth on either side of median tooth).		Marine Sediment Monitoring Team

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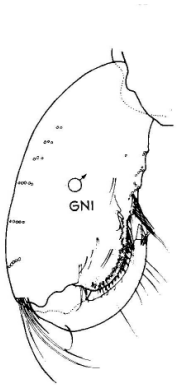
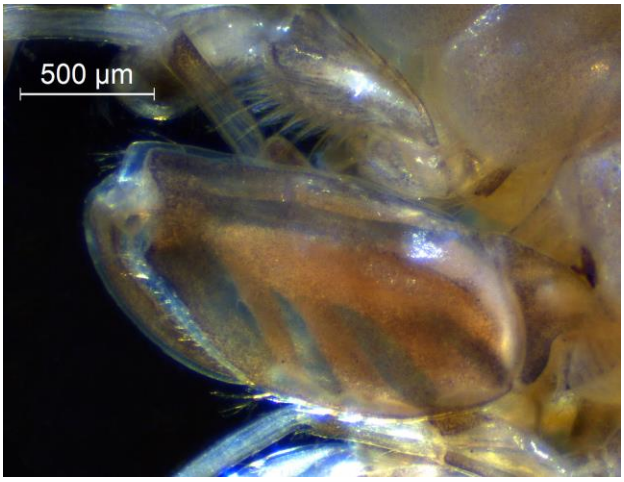
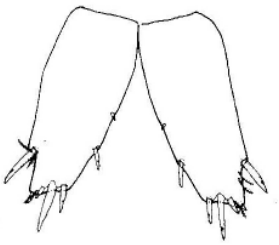
Male gnathopod 1 with elongate propod; palm with low hinge tooth	 	Jarrett & Bousfield 1996 (left) Marine Sediment Monitoring Team (right)
Telson lobes each with two medium-length apical spines.		Jarrett & Bousfield 1996 (p. 43, fig 27)

Comments

Literature

Alderman, A.L. 1936. Some new and little known amphipods of California. University of California Publications in Zoology 41:53-74.

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. 607-610)

Jarrett, Norma E., and Edward L. Bousfield. 1996. The amphipod superfamily Hadzioidea on the Pacific coast of North America. Family Melitidae. Part I. The Melita group: Systematics and distributional ecology. Amphipacifica 2(2): 3-74. (pp. 43-44)

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), Cassandra McNeal (University of Washington - Tacoma), and Jeffery Cordell (University of Washington - Seattle) on 3/7/13. This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1403225.html.	If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call (360) 407-6764. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.