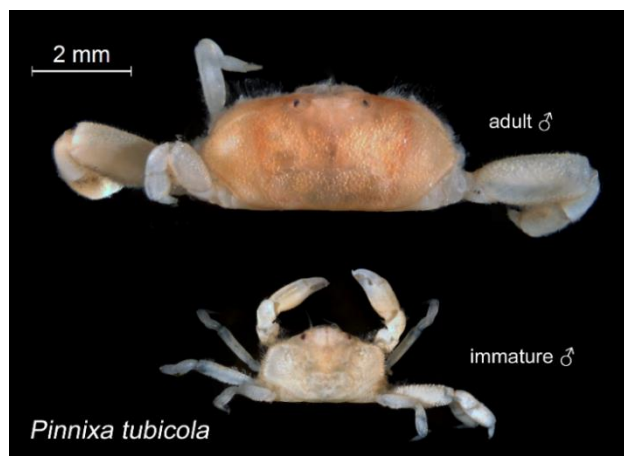




## *Pinnixa tubicola* Holmes, 1894

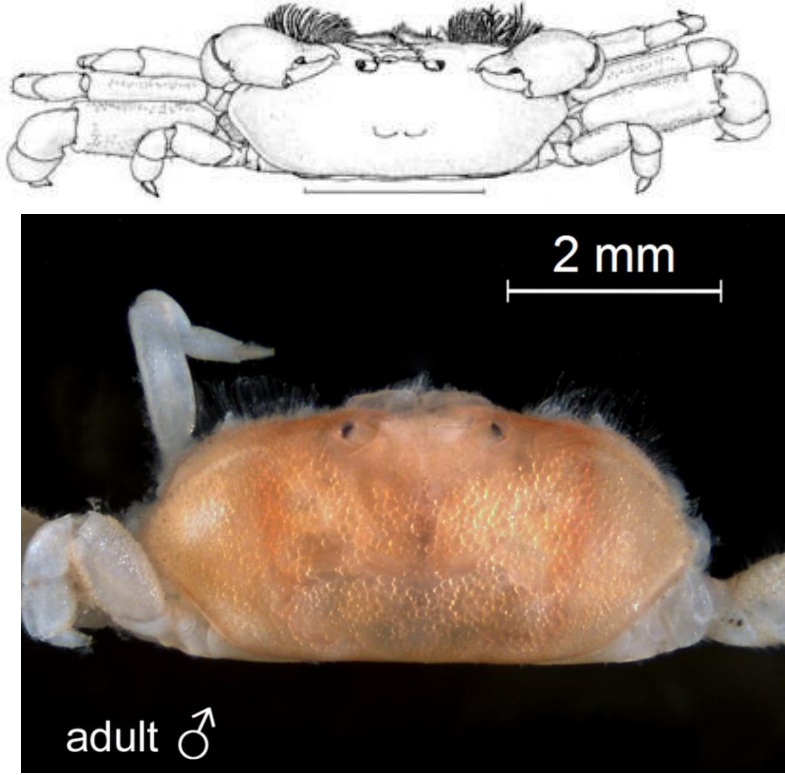

Nomenclature	
Phylum	Arthropoda
Class	Malacostraca
Order	Decapoda
Family	Pinnotheridae
Common Synonyms (S) Previous Names (PN)	

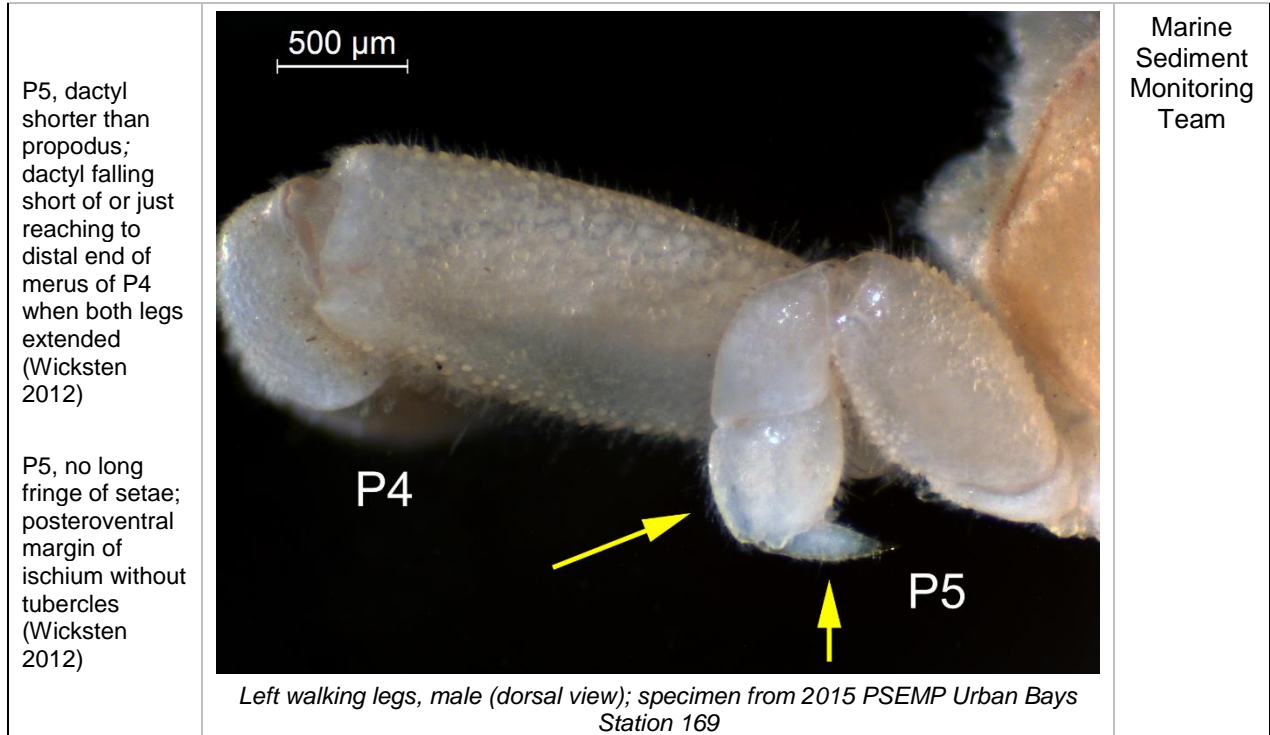


Distribution	
Type Locality	Type locality not specified; type material from Trinidad (Humboldt County), Cape Mendocino and Bodega Bay, California (Wicksten 2012).
Geographic Distribution	Prince Rupert, British Columbia, to Blanca Bay, Baja California (Zmarzly 1992). Also reported from Sitka, AK according to Jensen (2014); specimen listed in California Academy of Sciences collection database (Acc. Num. BLM 37359) 16 Aug 1982, 56 m.
Habitat	Sand or mud, symbiotic with polychaetes, often living in male-female pairs; intertidal zone to 57m (Wicksten 2012). Hosts include <i>Amphitrite</i> (Zmarzly 1992) and <i>Chaetopterus</i> sp (Jensen 2014).

Description	
From Wicksten 2012 (unless otherwise noted)	
<b>Size:</b> Medium-sized species; females to 12.5 mm carapace width (cw); males to 10.9 mm cw (Zmarzly 1992). Carapace length 4 mm.	
<b>Carapace:</b> Subcylindrical, 2.5-3.0x as wide as long in female to 2.2-2.7x as wide as long in male; transverse depression behind gastric region, from which carapace curves sharply downward; outer portion of anterolateral margin defined by ridge. Setal fringe along anterior margin. Occasionally with small granules laterally (Zmarzly 1992).	
<b>Chelipeds:</b> Small, hand oblong, fingers hooked at apices, inner margins meeting when closed, immovable finger curved upward distally; lower margin of palm convex.	
<b>Pereopods:</b> P2 slender with slender dactyls equal in length to propodi, dorsal and ventral margins distally spinous (Zmarzly 1992). P3 longer, stouter than P2, with relatively stouter dactyls. P4 stout, little longer than P3, with short, stout dactyls. P5 similar to but shorter than P4, not exceeding the end of merus of P4 when fully extended. Propodi of P3 and P4 inflated, only slightly longer than wide (in large specimens, propodus of P4 more elongate and less inflated than in smaller specimens).	
<b>Abdomen:</b> 7 free somites (Zmarzly 1992).	

## Diagnostic Characteristics

Diagnostic Characteristics	Photo, Illustrations	Photo, Illustration Credit
<p>Carapace not strongly calcified, smooth, at least 2x wider than long in males, and 2.5x in females (Wicksten 2012)</p> <p>Setal fringe along anterior margin (Zmarzly 1992)</p>	 <p><i>Carapace, male (dorsal view); specimen from 2015 PSEMP Urban Bays Station 169</i></p>	<p>Wicksten 2012, p. 257</p> <p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>
<p>P4 distinctly longer and larger than other walking legs (Wicksten 2012)</p>	 <p><i>Left walking legs, male (dorsal view); voucher specimen AR459</i></p>	<p>Marine Sediment Monitoring Team</p>



Related Species and Characteristic Differences	
Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Pinnixa longipes</i>	Posteroventral margin of ischium of P5 with two or three large tubercles; margins of P5 with long setal fringe (Wicksten 2012). <i>Note: This is a California species, not reported from Puget Sound.</i>
<i>Pinnixa tomentosa</i>	Carapace only about twice as long as wide and entirely covered with short coarse setae. Dactyl of P5 reaches beyond the distal end of the merus of P4. Appendages heavily setose, more so than in <i>P. tubicola</i> (Zmarzly 1992). <i>Note: This is a California species, not reported from Puget Sound.</i>

**Comments**

This species occurs primarily in the tubes of polychaete worms, particularly terebellids and chaetopterids.

**Literature**

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## More Information

More information about Puget Sound benthic invertebrates is available at:

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

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