Pyromaia tuberculata (Lockington, 1877)

Majidae

SCAMIT Code: LACO 77, HYP62, MBC 57 
Date Examined: August 11, 1986
Voucher by: Ann Martin

SYNONYMY: 
Inachus tuberculatus Lockington, 1877
Inachoides magdalensis Rathbun, 1893
Inachoides tuberculatus Schmitt, 1921


DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. Carapace pyriform, very convex, and tuberculate with three medial tubercles.
2. Postorbital spine large, curved forward around eye, eye rests closely to spine.
3. Hepatic spine softly rounded, extending slightly beyond postorbital spine.
4. Mature male chelipeds inflated and tuberculate (Fig. 1), female chelipeds slender (Fig. 2).
5. Male pleopod 1 as illustrated (Fig. 3).

VARIABILITY: Juveniles are longer than wide, have smaller postorbital spines and shorter dactyls. The rostrum is short, developing from a rounded bifid structure to the lengthened adult form (Fig. 4). Carapace tubercles develop with age; the intestinal arising last.

Garth (1958) determined that three races exist: the typical form described above, a northern Gulf of California form, and a southern Gulf of California form. The northern form has a shorter rostrum, a wider carapace with many coarse granules, and a swollen bare hand that Garth designated as a subspecies P. t. mexicana. The southern form, called variety A by Rathbun (1925), has a long rostrum, laterally directed postorbital spines and few granules on the walking legs.
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**RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:**

Garth (1958) noted that juveniles are similar to juvenile *Inachoides* which have smaller post orbital spines and shorter dactylys.

**DEPTH RANGE:** Intertidal to 400 m

**DISTRIBUTION:** Utria Bay, Columbia to Tomales Bay, California

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Fig. 1 Male *Pyromaia tuberculata*  
Fig. 2 Female *Pyromaia tuberculata*
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Fig. 3 Right first male pleopod (from Garth 1958)

Fig. 4 Juvenile Pyromaia tuberculata featuring development of the rostrum.