KEY TO THE PANDALIDAE OF CALIFORNIA
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(modified from Burukovskii 1974, Wicksten 1978, and Butler 1980)

1. Rostrum articulated to front of carapace ................. *Pantomus affinis*
   Rostrum not articulated, integral to carapace ................. 2

2. Third maxilliped with an exopod ......................... *Plesionika* 3
   Third maxilliped without an exopod ......................... 5

3. Second legs markedly unequal in length .................. *Plesionika mexicana*
   Second legs equal or subequal in length .................. 4

4. Rostrum with 2-8 dorsal spines; with a slight upcurve in the distal ten percent of it’s length ......................... *Plesionika sanctaecatalinae*
   Rostrum with 11+ dorsal spines; proximally straight, then angled upwards for the distal 50-70% of it’s length ......................... *Plesionika sp (nr. trispinus)*

5. Discoid widening of inner margin of ischium of 1st leg prominent .................. *Pandalopsis ampla*
   Discoid widening of inner margin of ischium of 1st leg absent .................. *Pandalus* 6

6. Third abdominal segment carinated dorsally, carina forms a lobe in the posterior margin of the segment ..................... *Pandalus jordani*
   Third abdominal segment not carinated dorsally ................ 7

7. Dorsal spines confined to anterior half of carapace ...................... 8
   Dorsal spines extend to posterior half of carapace ................ *Pandalus danae*

8. Sixth abdominal somite length ≥2X width .................. *Pandalus tridens*
   Sixth abdominal somite length <2X width .................. *Pandalus platyceros*