Species: Ericthonius sp SD1

Taxon: Gammaridea: Corophioidea: Ischyroceridae

Date: 22 April 1998

By: Dean Pasko

Voucher Specimen(s):

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Characters:
A small species, approximately 2-3 mm in length at maturity.
Male gnathopod 2 with double defining tooth; coxa 2 much broader than deep, antero-ventral margins slightly concave, posterior margin strongly oblique; article 2 (basis) elongate (Figure 1).
Male coxa 1 anteriorly produced, narrow, much broader than deep (Figure 2).
Female coxa 1 anteriorly produced, gently rounded posteriorly (Figure 3).
Female coxa 2 anteriorly produced, ventrally stepped (or sinuous), with oblique posterior margin (Figure 4).
Uropod 3 peduncle equal to urosomite 3 (both male and female).

Illustrations: Ericthonius sp SD1

Figure 1. Male gnathopod 2, setae omitted.

Figure 2. Male coxa 1, setae omitted.

Figure 3. Female coxa 1, setae omitted.

Figure 4. Female coxa 2, setae omitted.

Related Species:
This species is very similar to Ericthonius brasiliensis in form of the gnathopods, mouthpart morphology, shape of coxa 5, length of uropod 3 peduncle (= urosomite 3), and uropod armature, etc. The species differs from E. brasiliensis in its consistently small size at maturity (approximately one-half the size of E. brasiliensis), the distinctive shape of coxae 1 and 2, and the more elongate basis of gnathopod 2 (male).

Comments:
It is possible that this species was previously mistaken for juvenile forms of E. brasiliensis, however, the consistently small size (2-3 mm) of ovigerous females and males with well developed penes, together with the few, but consistent differences listed above suggests that Ericthonius sp SD1 is a separate species.

(over)
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References:


Distribution—

Pt. Loma: 63 ft to 275 ft in sandy sediments

Geographic: San Diego, California

Habitat: