

KEY TO CANCER

Jack Q. Word

CANCER

Brachyura:Brachyrhyncha

<i>Metacarcinus</i>	<u>Cancer productus</u>	Randall	1839
	<u>Cancer gracilis</u>	Dana	1852
<i>Glebocarcinus</i>	<u>Cancer oregonensis</u>	(Dana)	1852)
<i>Glebocarcinus</i>	<u>Cancer amphioetus</u>	Rathbun	1898
<i>Romaleon</i>	<u>Cancer antennarius</u>	Stimpson	1856
	<i>Romaleon</i> <u>Cancer jordani</u>	Rathbun	1900
<i>Romaleon</i>	<u>Cancer branneri</u>	Rathbun	1926
<i>Metacarcinus</i>	<u>Cancer anthonyi</u>	Rathbun	1897

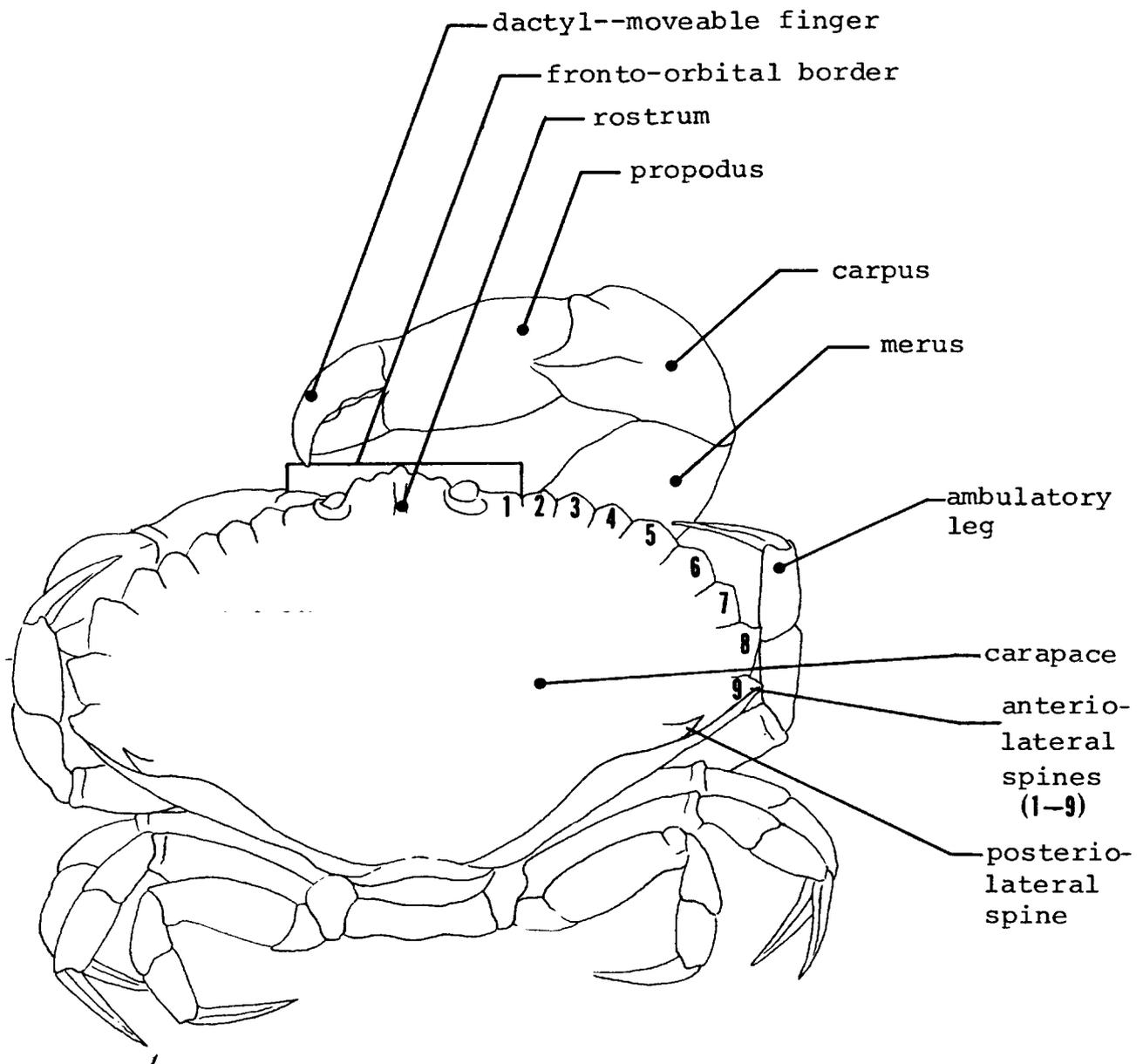


Diagram of crab features.

KEY TO THE
GENUS CANCER

1 . . . (2) Rostral teeth form a single produced plate in one plane. Rostral teeth may be either clearly evident or only slightly visible.

Cancer productus

2 . . . (1) Rostral teeth do not form a single produced plate. Teeth are evident and occupy more than one vertical plane.

3 . . . (4) Fingers of chelipeds are light in color.

Cancer gracilis

4 . . . (3) Fingers of chelipeds at least partially black in color.

5 . . . (10) Carapace widest at seventh or eighth lateral tooth.

6 . . . (7) No definite demarcation from antero-lateral to postero-lateral teeth (12 to 13 lateral teeth).

Cancer oregonesis

7 . . . (6) A definite demarcation point between the antero-lateral and postero-lateral teeth.

8 . . . (9) Outer frontal orbital tooth has definite shape (Figure 1).

Cancer amphiotus



Figure 1.

9 . . . (8) Outer frontal orbital tooth not as above.

Cancer antennarius

- 10 . . . (5) Carapace widest at ninth antero-lateral tooth.
 11 . . . (12) Edges of frontal orbital teeth are typically shaped as in the drawing (Figure 2).

Cancer jordani

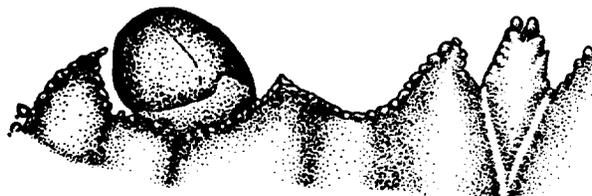


Figure 2.

- 12 . . . (11) Edges of fronto-orbital teeth are at most granulate.
 13 . . . (14) Outer frontal orbital tooth has a definite shape (Figure 1).

Cancer amphioetus

- 14 . . . (13) Outer frontal orbital tooth are not as above.
 15 . . . (16) First postero-lateral spine is directed upward (vertically) not laterally.

Cancer branneri

- 16 . . . (15) First postero-lateral spine is directed laterally (towards the margin) not vertically.
 17 . . . (18) Antero-lateral teeth alternate in size (only seen in juveniles approximately 5 mm or less) Carapace is not hairy.

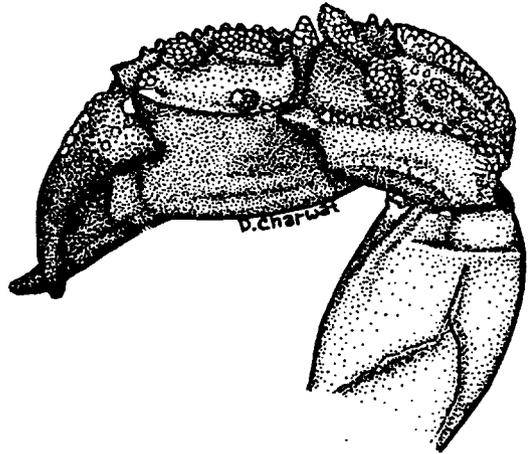
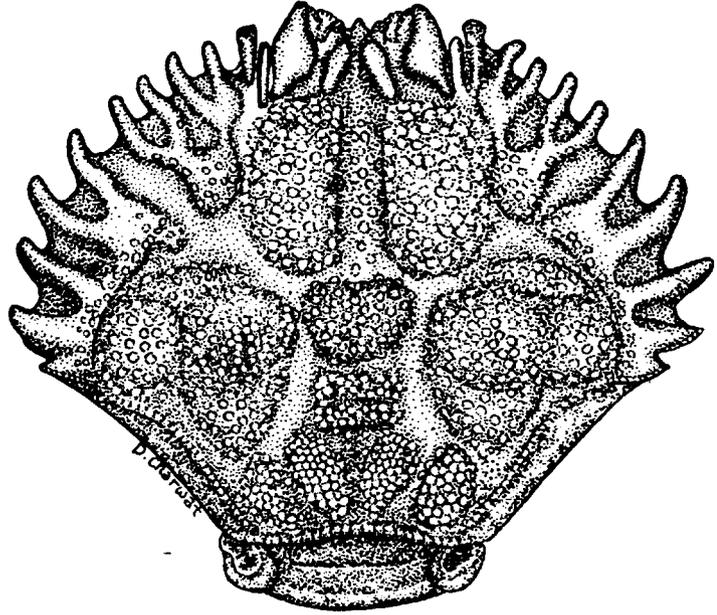
Cancer anthonyi

- 18 . . . (17) Antero-lateral teeth do not alternate in size.
 19 . . . (20) Antero-lateral teeth broadly triangular never spiny or pointed (no red freckles on ventral surface).

Cancer anthonyi

- 20 . . . (19) Antero-lateral teeth thick but often tipped with a spine (red freckles present on abdomen).

Cancer antennarius



Right cheliped.

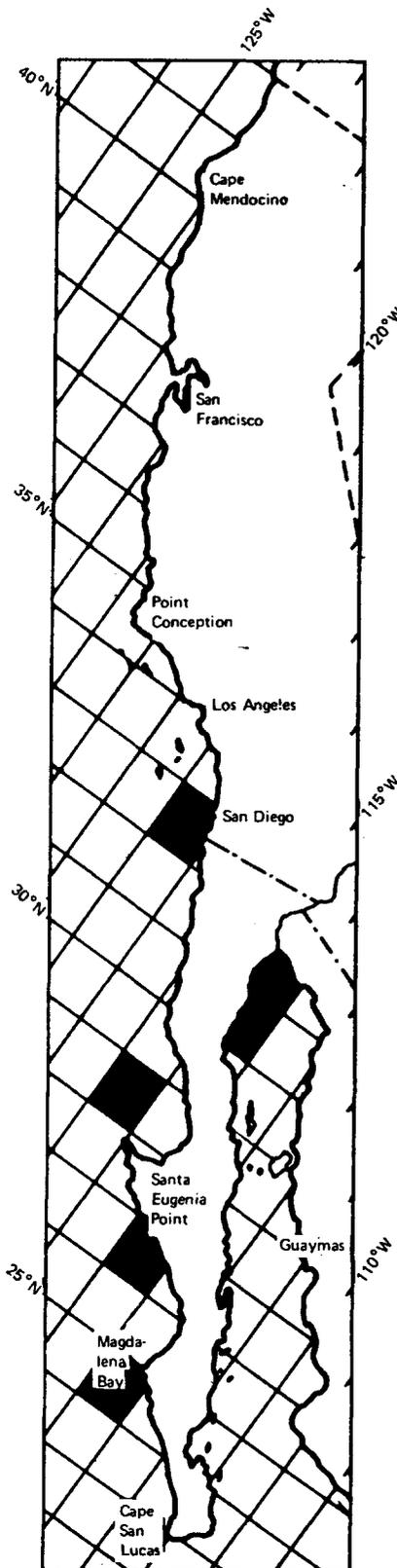
Cancer amphioetus Rathbun 1898

SYNONYMS

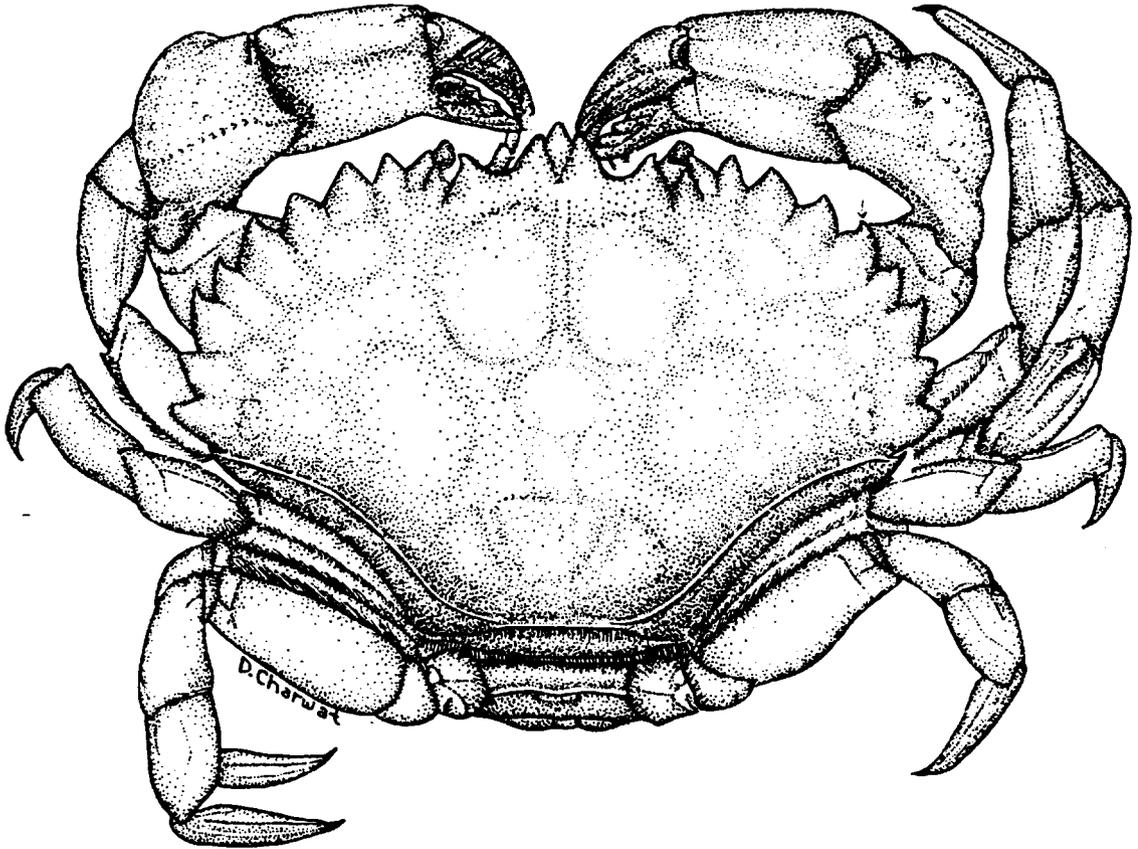
Trichocarcinus dentatus Miers 1879.
Cancer pygmaeus Ortmann 1893. Cancer
bullatus Balss 1922.

DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: La Jolla and San Diego Bay, California. Cerros Island, Santa Maria Bay, Abreojos Point, Magdalena Bay, Consag Point, Diggs Point, and Cape Tepoca, Baja California. Northwest of Guaymas, Gulf of California, Mexico. Japan. Korea.



Cancer antennarius Stimpson 1856



Margin of outer orbital tooth is
smooth or tipped with spine.

Cancer antennarius Stimpson 1856

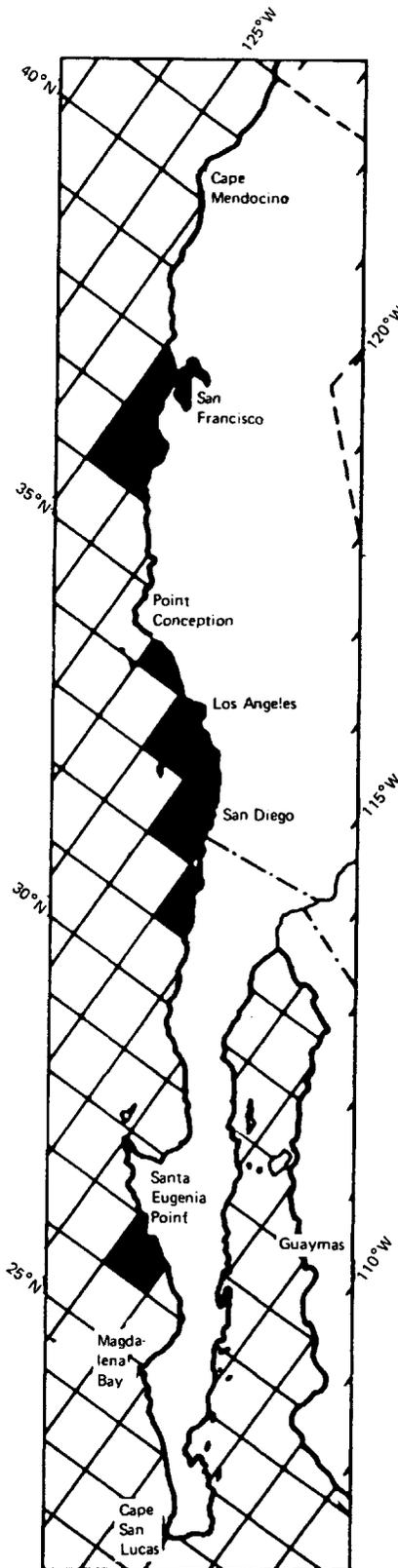
SYNONYM

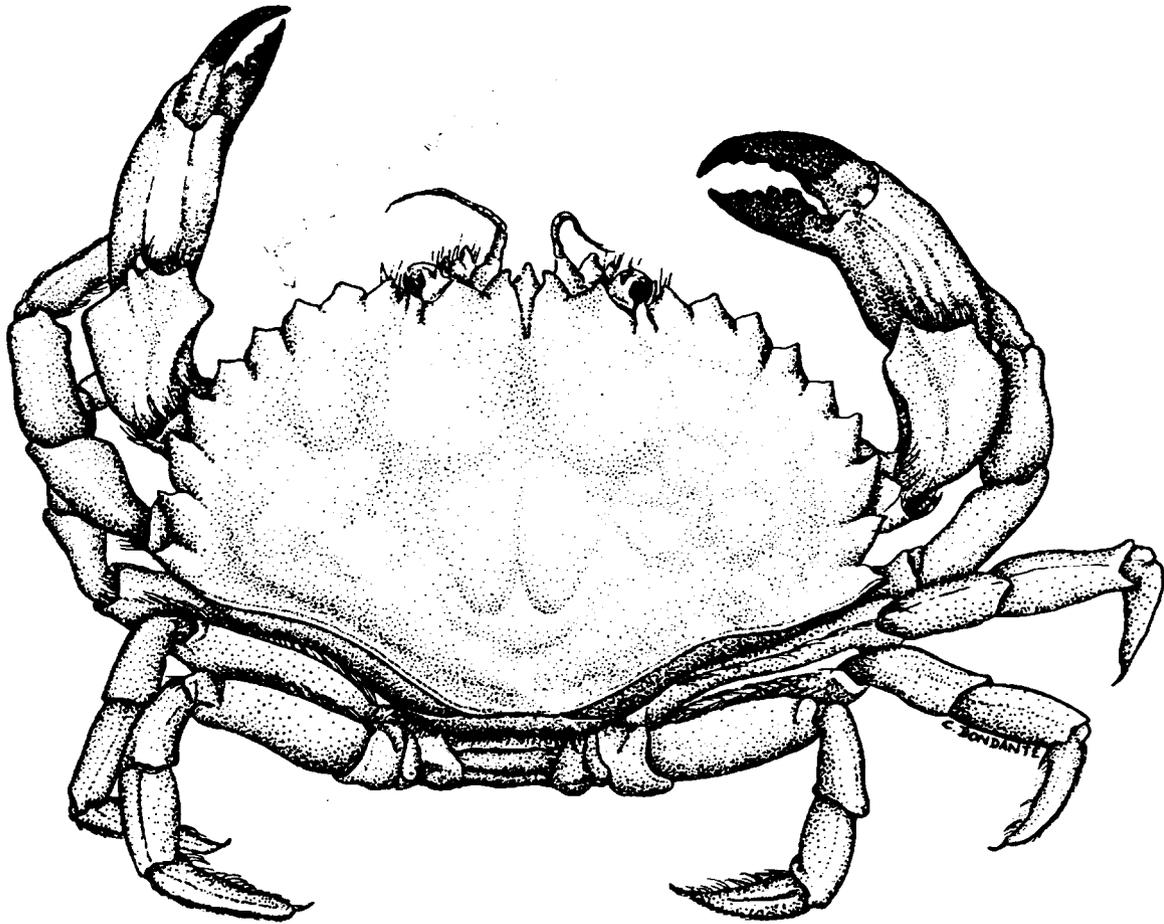
Cancer antennaria Stimpson 1856.

DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: Tomales Bay, San Francisco Bay, Half Moon Bay, Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay, Pacific Grove, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay, Long Beach, Laguna Beach, Santa Catalina Island, La Jolla, and San Diego, California. Todos Santos Island and Abreojos Point (1924), Baja California.

From Coastal Water Project data: Palos Verdes and Orange County, California. Is found near rocks in the intertidal zone at depths to 30 m. Found gravid in May and June.



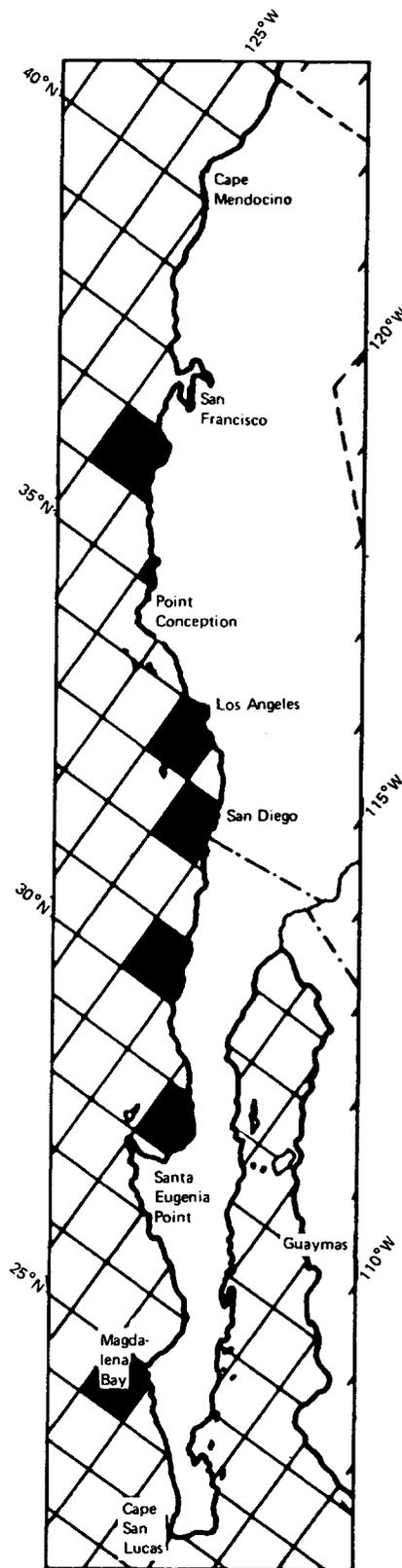


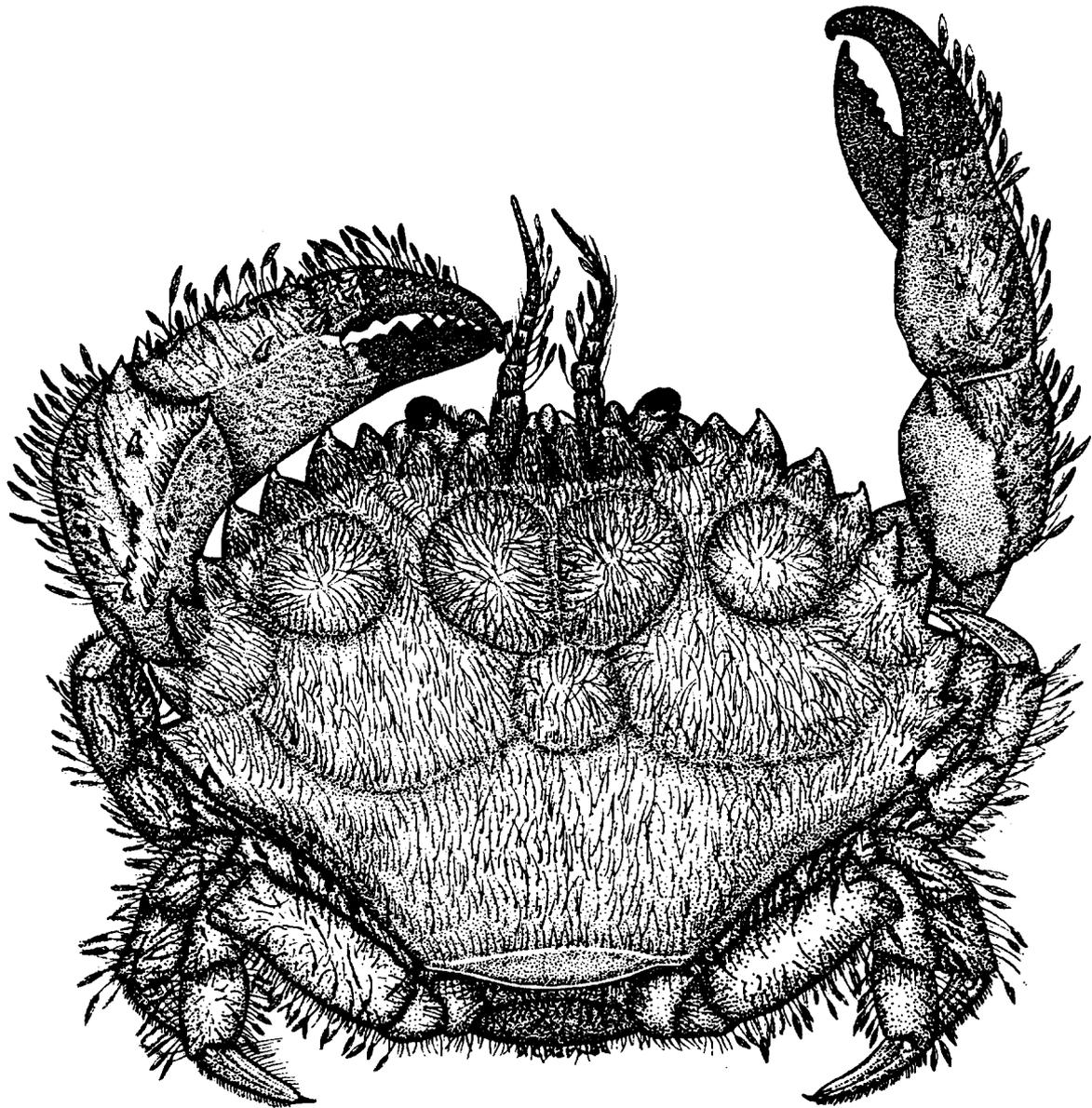
Cancer anthonyi Rathbun 1897

DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: Monterey Bay, Morro Bay, Seal Beach, Long Beach, Anaheim Bay, Santa Catalina Island, La Jolla, and San Diego, California. Cape Colnett, Playa Maria Bay, Rosario Bay, and Magdalena Bay, Baja California.

From Coastal Water Project data: Santa Monica Bay, Palos Verdes, San Pedro, Orange County, and Dana Point, California. Occurs commonly in waters of 30 to 60 m. Appears to be associated with rock formations. Found gravid between June and September.





First postero-lateral tooth is directed vertically.

Cancer branneri Rathbun 1926

SYNONYM

Cancer gibbosulus Rathbun 1898 (part).

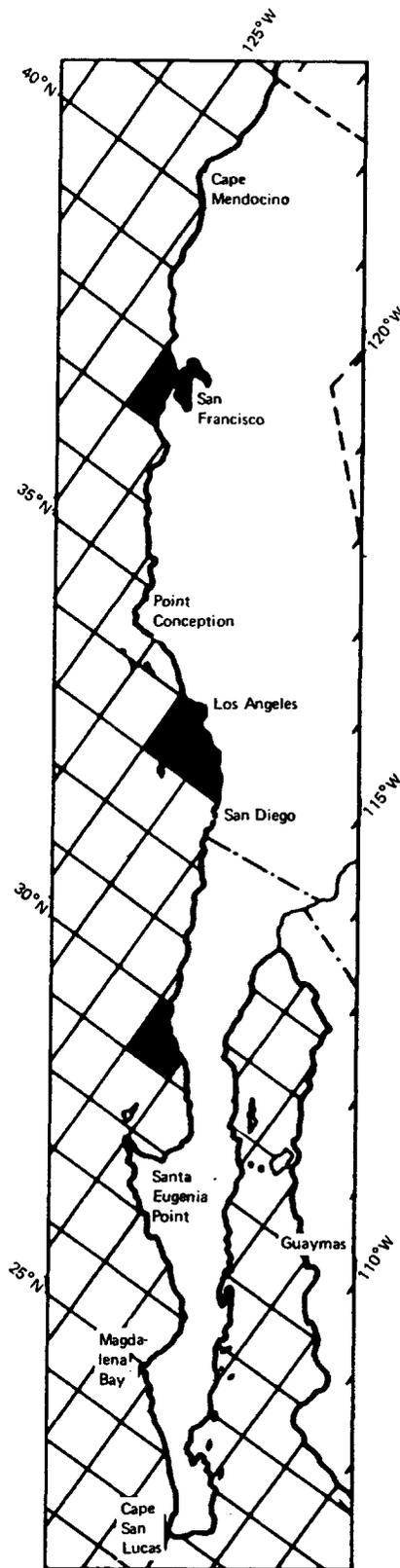
DISTRIBUTION

From Nininger 1916: Laguna Beach, California.

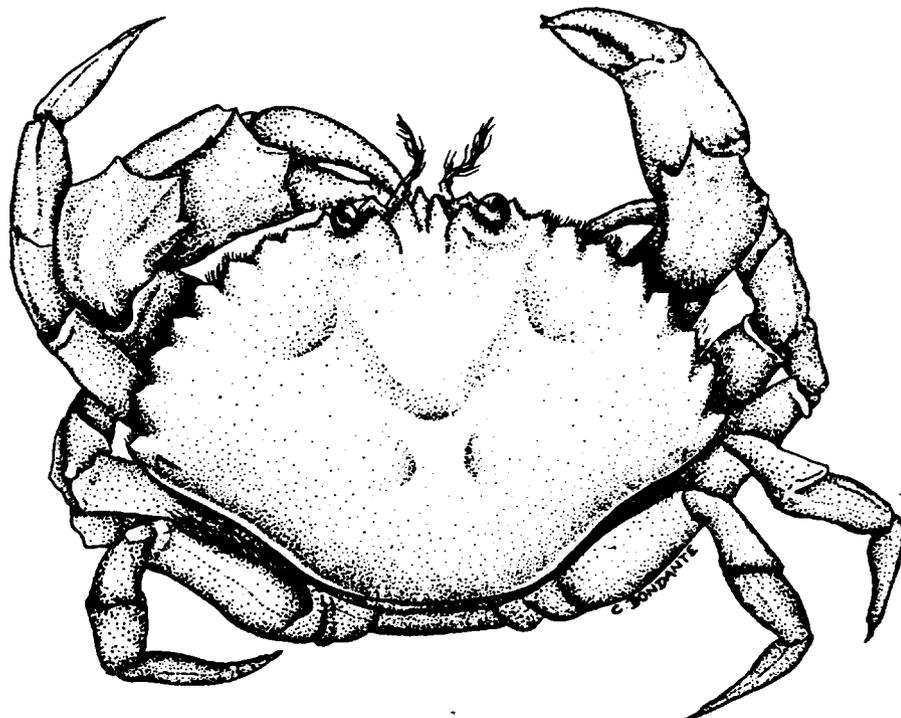
From Schmitt 1921: San Geronimo Island, Baja California.

From Rathbun 1930: Alaska. Canada. Oregon. San Francisco, Farallon Islands, Seal Beach, and Santa Catalina Island, California.

From Word's data: Found on intertidal rocks, Lunada Bay, California, 1965.



Cancer gracilis Dana 1852



110. 28. 1852. 8. 12. 10. 2.

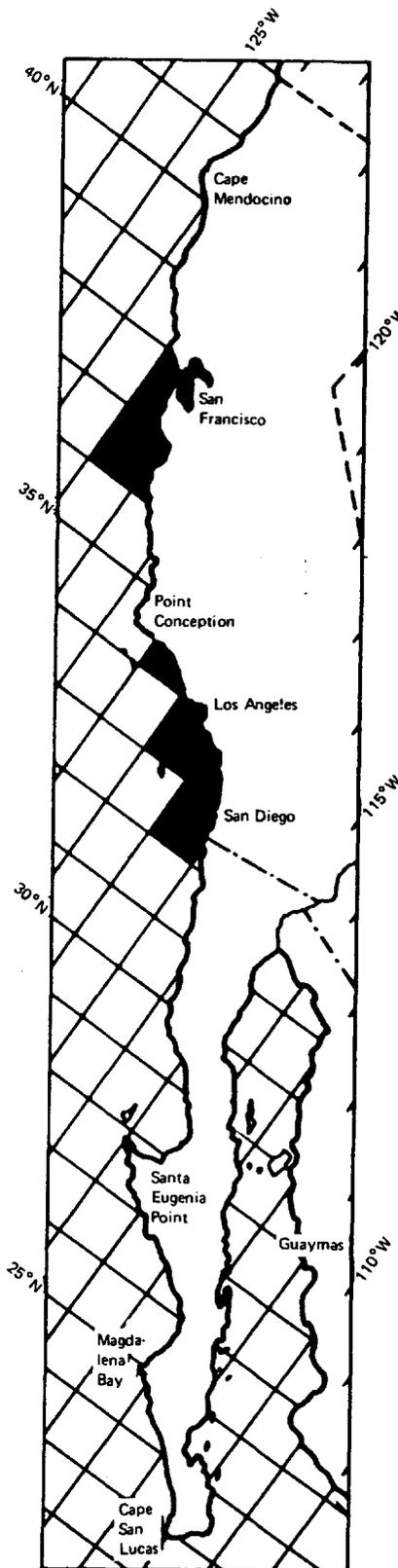
Cancer gracilis Dana 1852

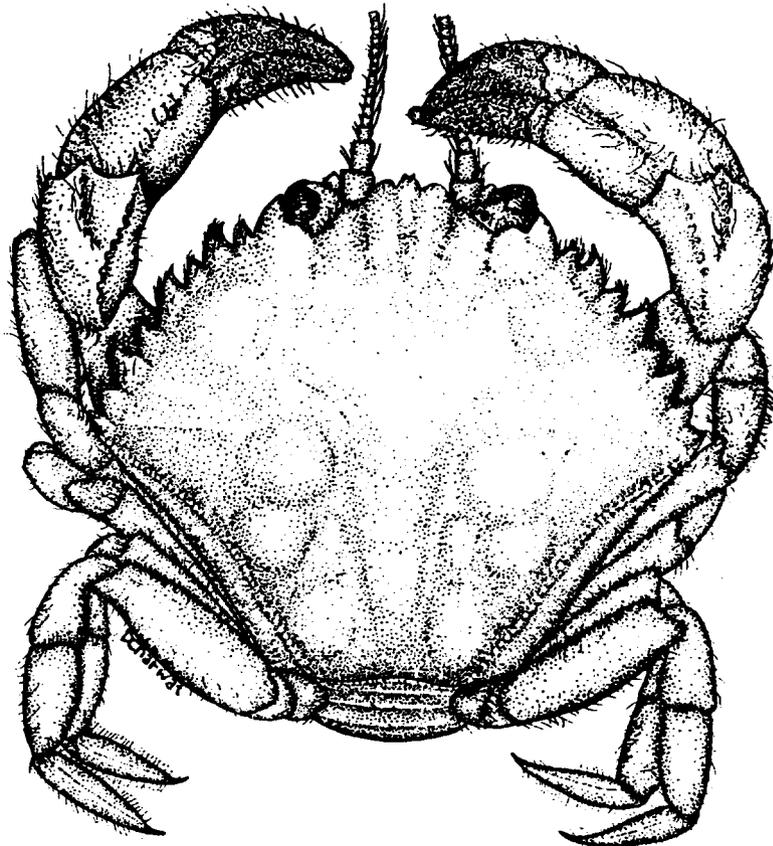
DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: Alaska. Canada. Washington. Oregon. Drakes Bay, Bolinas Point, San Francisco Bay, Farallon Islands, Point Montara, Pescadero Point, Point Ano Nuevo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Monterey Bay, Pacific Grove, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica Bay, Point Vicente, Point Fermin, Long Beach, Newport Bay, and Laguna Beach, California.

From Holmes 1900: Tomales Bay and San Diego, California.

From Coastal Water Project data: Port Hueneme, Santa Monica Bay, Palos Verdes, San Pedro Bay, Orange County, and Dana Point, California. Is found in bays and in the subtidal zone at depths to 60 m, but is more commonly found in less than 30 m of water. Is often found in association with Pelagia sp., a large jellyfish. Newly settled juveniles appear in the trawl catches generally in May.





Frontal orbital margin with spines on teeth.

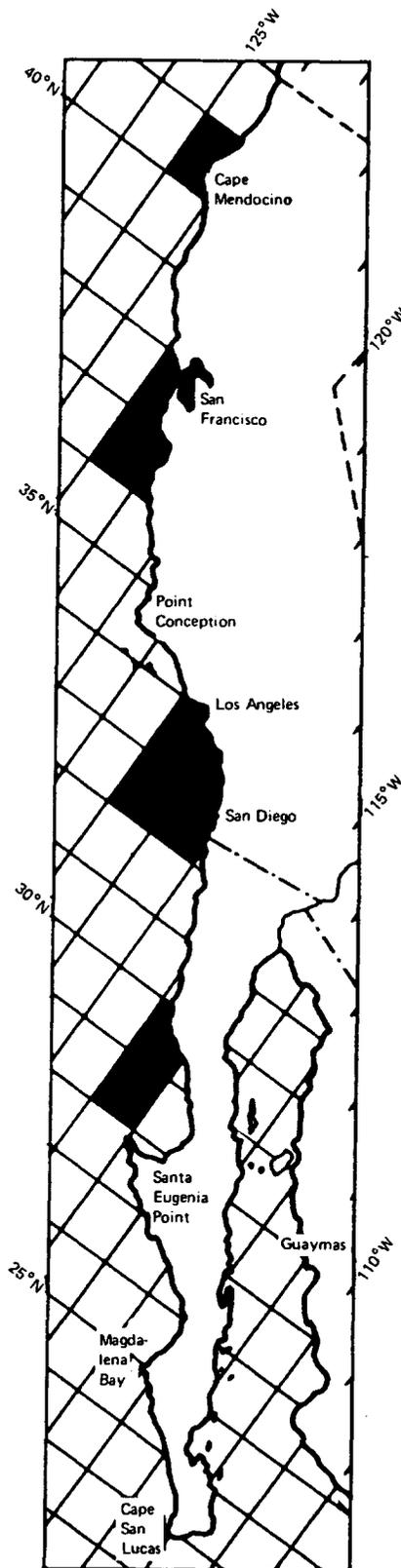
*Very similar to
Cancer jordani
Rathbun 1900*

Cancer jordani Rathbun 1900

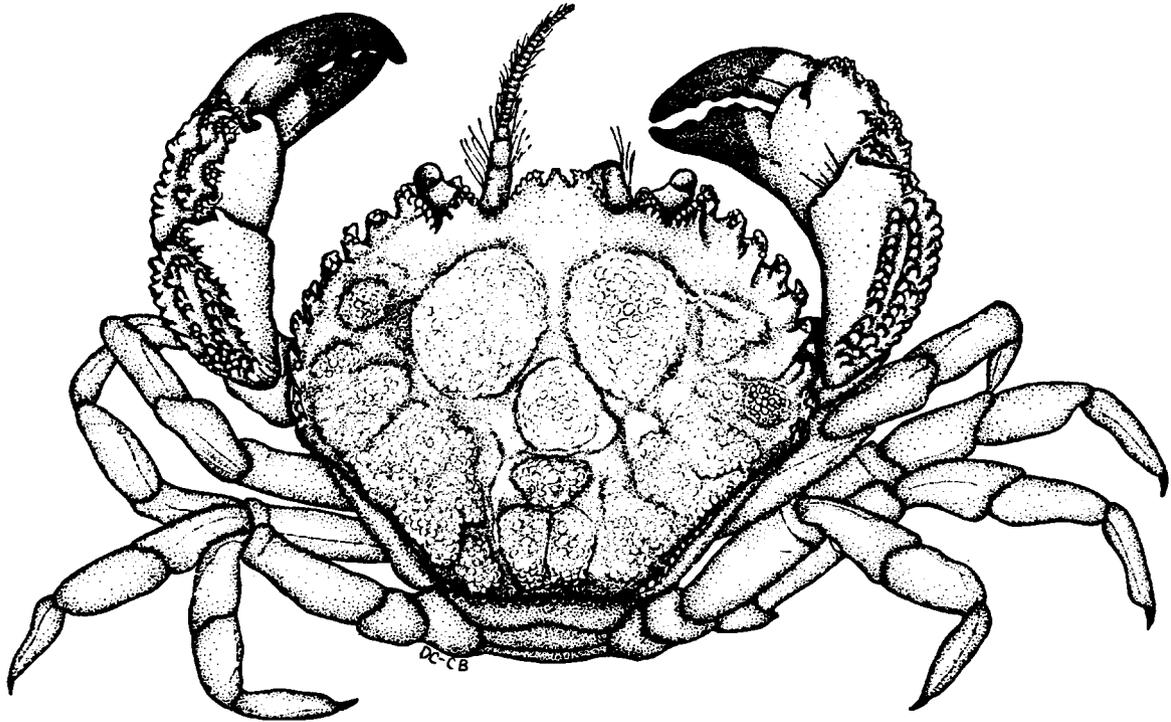
DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: Humboldt Bay, Half-Moon Bay, Monterey Bay, Monterey, Santa Monica Bay, Point Vicente, Point Fermin, San Pedro, Long Beach, Seal Beach, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Santa Catalina Island, San Nicolas Island, La Jolla, and San Diego, California. Cedros Island and San Geronimo Island, Baja California.

From Coastal Water Project data: Orange County, California. Is found in shallow waters at depths of 9 to 18 m off San Clemente Island in much algal debris.



Cancer oregonensis (Dana 1852)



Usually a more slender crab
a color in the region, there is
leg, and the body is...

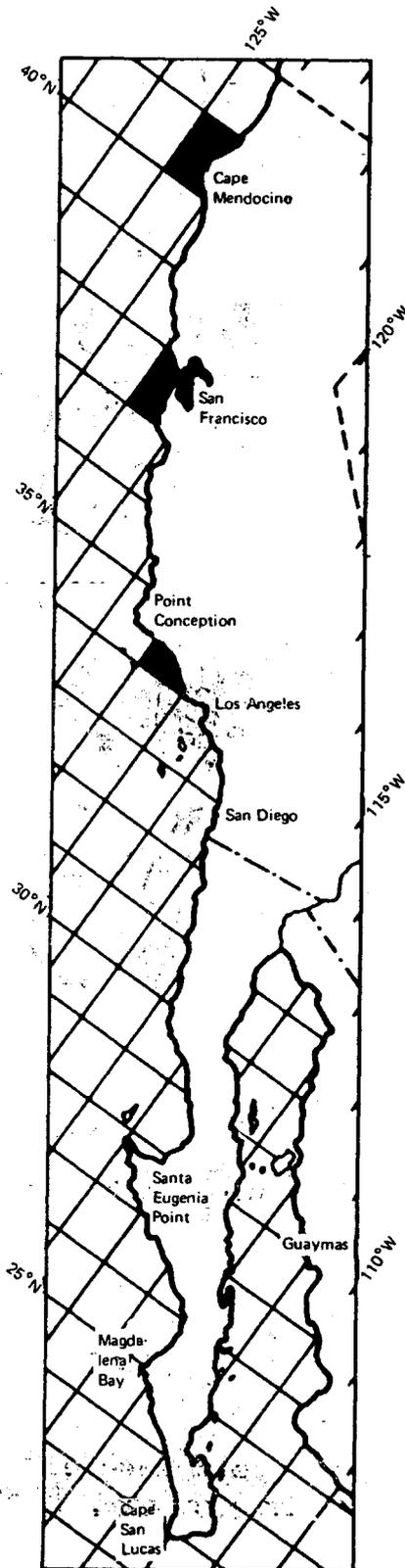
Cancer oregonensis (Dana 1852)

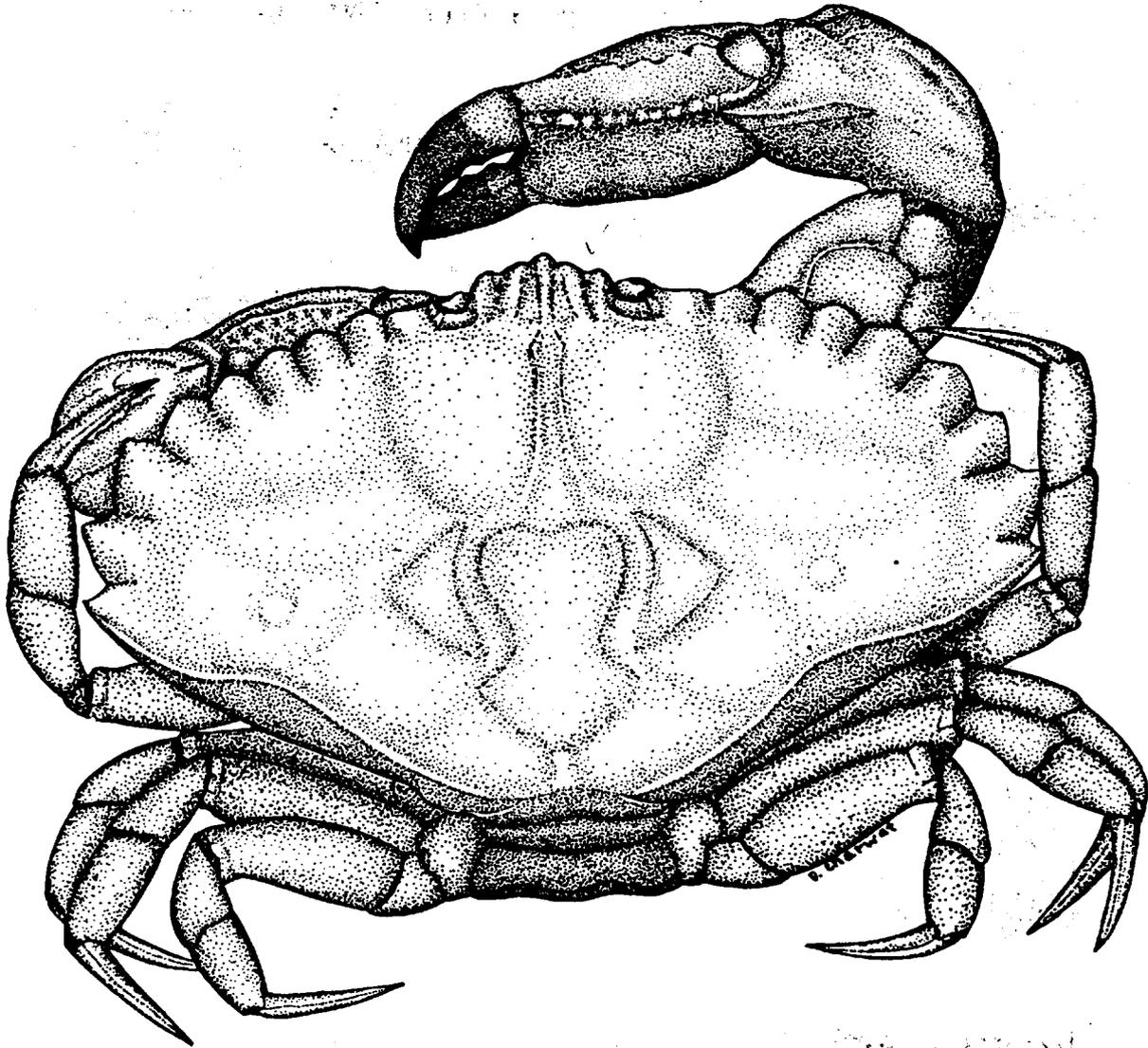
SYNONYMS

Trichocera oregonensis Dana 1852.
Platycarcinus recurvidens Bate 1864.
Trichocarcinus oregonensis Miers 1879.
Trichocarcinus recurvidens Walker 1898.
Trichocarcinus walkeri Holmes 1900.
Cancer oregonensis Rathbun 1898.

DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: Alaska. Canada. Washington. Oregon. Humboldt Bay, Farallon Islands, and Santa Barbara, California.





Mature specimen: Rostral teeth clearly evident.



Immature specimen: Rostral teeth undeveloped
but do form produced plate.

Cancer productus Randall 1839

SYNONYMS

Platycarcinus productus Gibbes 1880.
Cancer perlatus Stimpson 1856.

DISTRIBUTION

From Rathbun 1930: Alaska. Canada. Washington. Oregon. Tomales Bay, San Francisco Bay, Half Moon Bay, Monterey Bay, Pacific Grove, and Laguna Beach, California.

From Coastal Water Project data: Palos Verdes, California. Is believed to occur around deeper rock formations at 30 to 60 m. Found gravid between December and June.

