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

LITERATURE: Garth, J.S. 1958. Brachyura of the Pacific Coast of America Oxyrhyncha. Allan Hancock Pac. Exped. Vol. 21, Part 1 and 2.

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 vareity A by Rathbun (1925), has a long rostrum, laterally directed postorbital spines and few granules on the walking legs.

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:

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

DEPTH RANGE: Intertidal to 400m

DISTRIBUTION: Utria Bay, Columbia to Tomales Bay, California

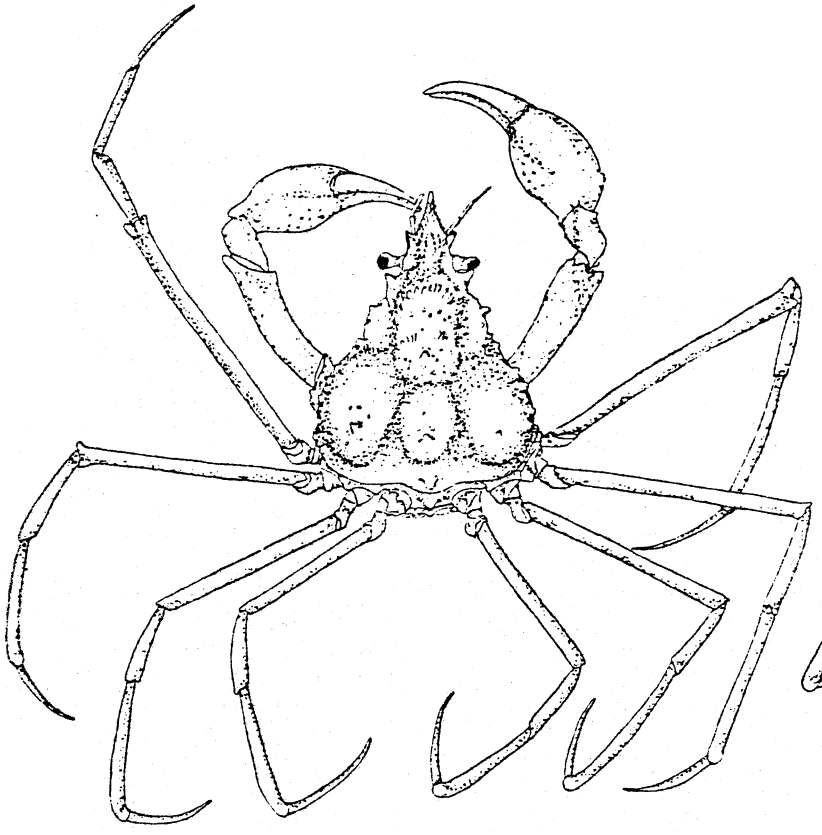

Fig. 1 Male Pyromaia tuberculata

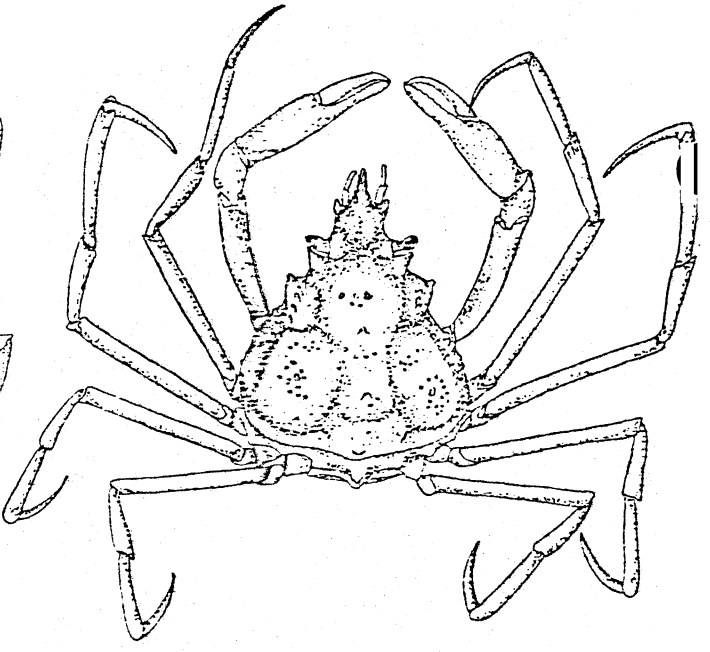

Fig. 2 Female Pyromaia tuberculata

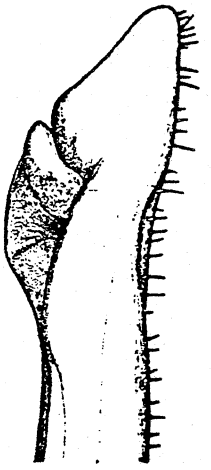

Fig. 3 Right first male pleopod (from Garth 1958)

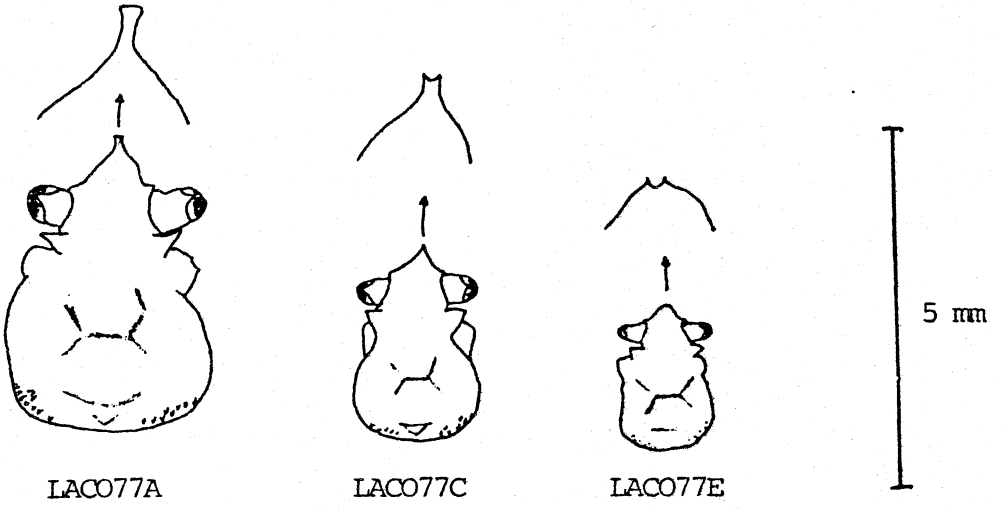

Fig. 4 Juvenile Pyromaia tuberculata featuring development of the rostrum.