A key to the Mysidacea of the Pacific Northwest

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A key to 28 species of Mysidacea of the coastal and inland waters of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia is presented. The literature on taxonomic revisions, continuing taxonomic problems, and recently described species is reviewed. Diagnostic illustrations and an annotated species list containing the geographic distribution and general ecology of each mysid are also included.

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On trouvera ici une clé d'identification des 28 espèces de Mysidacea des eaux côtières et continentales d'Oregon, du Washington et de la Colombie-Britannique. La littérature associée aux révisions taxonomiques, aux problèmes taxonomiques et aux espèces récentes fait l'objet d'une révision. L'article contient également des illustrations diagnostiques ainsi qu'une liste des espèces de mysidacées accompagnée de notes sur la répartition géographique et l'écologie générale de chacune.

[Traduit par la revue]

Introduction

Mysids are recognized as an integral part of estuarine food webs. They are important as predators (Siegfried and Kopache 1980; Fulton 1982) and as food for fishes (Haertel and Osterberg 1967; Orsi and Knutson 1979) and shrimp (Sitts and Knight 1979). There has been an increase in research on marine and estuarine systems, ranging from zooplankton and fishery dynamics to studies on the effects of human impact and pollution. Identification of mysids is difficult, yet no adequate key to the mysids of the Pacific Northwest is available. We therefore present a key designed to help both the general biologist and the specialist in making accurate and rapid identifications.

The mysids included in the key are those that inhabit the coastal and inland waters of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, ranging from the intertidal zone to the shallow coastal water over the continental shelf. The geographic ranges of many of the species extend to California and southern Alaska and a few species are even more widespread.

For anyone who does not have a good working knowledge of the listed mysid species, the importance of detailed descriptions and illustrations from published references cannot be overemphasized. The terminology used for mysids can be confusing because it has not been standardized. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the terminology commonly used in the reference literature. In the key, the terminal structures on the 4th male pleopods, which frequently, but unjustifiably, have been called setae, have been noted as "setae."

For positive identification of a mysid, the use of only the characters usually found in a key is not satisfactory. Knowledge of the secondary sexual characters is essential, but general appearance, body size, general shape of the antennal scale, telson, and various other appendages, behavior patterns, habitat, and the geographic range may be helpful. Therefore, as much as possible of this information has been included in the key, in Figs. 3 and 4, and in the species list. The telson and antennal scale for each species are shown in Fig. 3, and unusual diagnostic characters that are specific for certain species and mentioned in the key are illustrated in Fig. 4. Dissection may be necessary to identify some mysids. Methods of measuring body length of mysids vary; customarily, and in the key below, the length is taken from the front of the carapace (including the rostrum) to the apex of the telson.

Identifications must be made carefully. Characters such as the absolute number of spines and setae should be used with caution because they may vary with the size of the specimens. In most cases, very young individuals and mutilated specimens, especially if there are only a few, are best left unidentified. It is also possible that a specimen may not be able to be identified from this key. For example, oceanic or deep-water species are not included in the key; however, occasionally they may be found near shore. Also, there are as yet undescribed species known to occur in this area and if found they obviously could not be properly identified.

The basic references for coastal mysids of the Pacific Northwest are W. M. Tattersall (1933, 1951), Banner (1948–1954), and Holmquist (1958–1982). A good synopsis of the coastal mysid fauna was based on the 1955-1966 collections of the National Museums of Canada (Holmquist 1982). Papers dealing with deep-water mysids off the North American coast include Ortmann (1908), Esterly (1914), W. M. Tattersall (1933, 1951), Banner (1948–1954), and Băcescu and Gleye (1979).

Several other publications should be useful for further information on mysids. For example, Ii's (1964) Mysidae is recommended for its information on Pacific mysids and The British Mysidacea by Tattersall and Tattersall (1951) for the chapter on general morphology of mysids. A World list of mysid species was published in 1977 by Mauchline and Murano. A mysid bibliography, compiled by Clarke and completed by Beeton (Beeton and Clarke 1978), replaces and supplements an earlier bibliography by Gordan (1957). Mauchline (1980) discusses many aspects of mysid research based on recent international publications.

Some of the confusion in the Pacific mysid literature has been resolved in recent years. An extensive revision of the genus Acanthomysis established seven new genera (Holmquist 1979, 1980, 1981a, 1981b). All the Pacific mysid species previously referred to this genus show some characters that are significantly

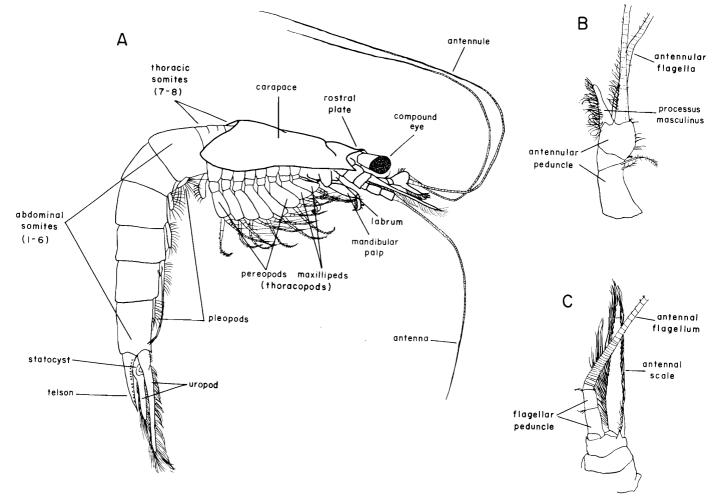


Fig. 1. Descriptive terminology of a mysid, *Neomysis mercedis*, illustrated by a common mature male. (A) Lateral view. (b) Antennule. (C) Antenna. Figures not to scale: A, original (Daly); B, original (Holmquist); C, Holmquist 1973.

different from those of the Acanthomysis type species. At this time, no Acanthomysis species are known to occur in the Pacific Ocean. Several other northeast Pacific species occasionally have been misidentified due to inadequate material or premature conclusions, e.g., Mysis litoralis (Banner), Neomysis mercedis Holmes, Inusitatomysis insolita Ii (Holmquist 1958, 1973, 1982). Taxonomic problems that still need to be considered include the Pacific material of Meterythrops robusta S. I. Smith, Amblyops abbreviata (M. Sars), and Stilomysis grandis (Goës) which are urgently in need of a revision. There are too many incongruities for all of the records to be authentic. The genus

Caesaromysis is also in need of revision. Pacific specimens referred to Caesaromysis hispida Ortmann differ from specimens described from the Atlantic Ocean (Banner 1948; Murano 1977). The species "Acanthomysis" columbiae is still of unknown systematic position. Further, three new northwest Pacific mysid species have been described in recent years, Holmesimysis sculptoides Holmquist, 1979, Holmesimysis nudensis Holmquist, 1979, and Columbiaemysis ignota Holmquist, 1982. Pseudomma truncatum S. I. Smith has not been included in the key or the species list below because its occurrence in the Pacific area is very questionable (Holmquist 1982).

Key to the Mysidacea of the Pacific Northwest

la.	Telson cleft	2
	Telson not cleft	
2 <i>a</i> .	Outer margin of antennal scale without setae	3
2 <i>b</i> .	Outer margin of antennal scale with setae	4
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- 3a. Outer margin of antennal scale with only stout terminal spine. Telson with few stout, lateral spines, and longer pair apical spines; cleft with denticles, without spines or setae. Exopod of uropod with stout spines on outer margin and setae on inner margin. All male and female pleopods biramous (Fig. 2F); exopod of 3rd pleopod of male elongated with 2 terminal spinelike structures. Moderately large, maximum length about 20 mm, stout, often conspicuously maculate. Archaeomysis grebnitzkii

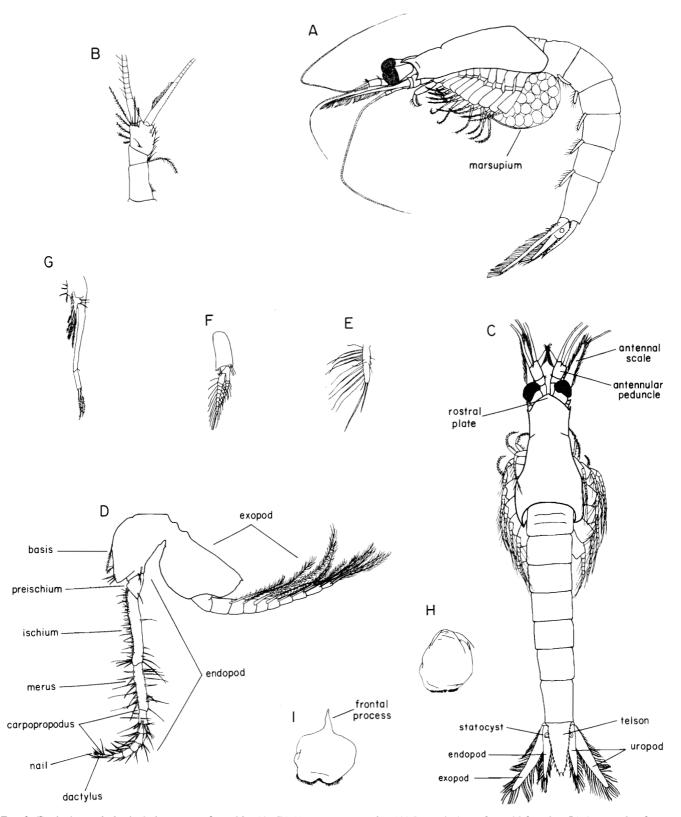


Fig. 2. Typical morphological characters of mysids. (A–D) *Neomysis mercedis*. (A) Lateral view of gravid female. (B) Antennule of mature female. (C) Dorsal view of mature male. (D) 2nd perceptod (4th thoracopod). (E–G) Pleopods. (E) Rudimentary, uniramous (*Columbiaemysis ignota*). (F) Biramous (*Archaeomysis grebnitzkii*). (G) Fourth male; elongated with terminal "setae" (*N. mercedis*). (H–I) Labrum. (H) Without a frontal process, ventral view (*Alienacanthomysis macropsis*). (I) With frontal process, ventral view (*C. ignota*). Figures not to scale: A–D, original (Daly); E, H, I, redrawn from Holmquist 1980, 1982; F, redrawn from Ii 1964; G, redrawn from Tattersall 1951.

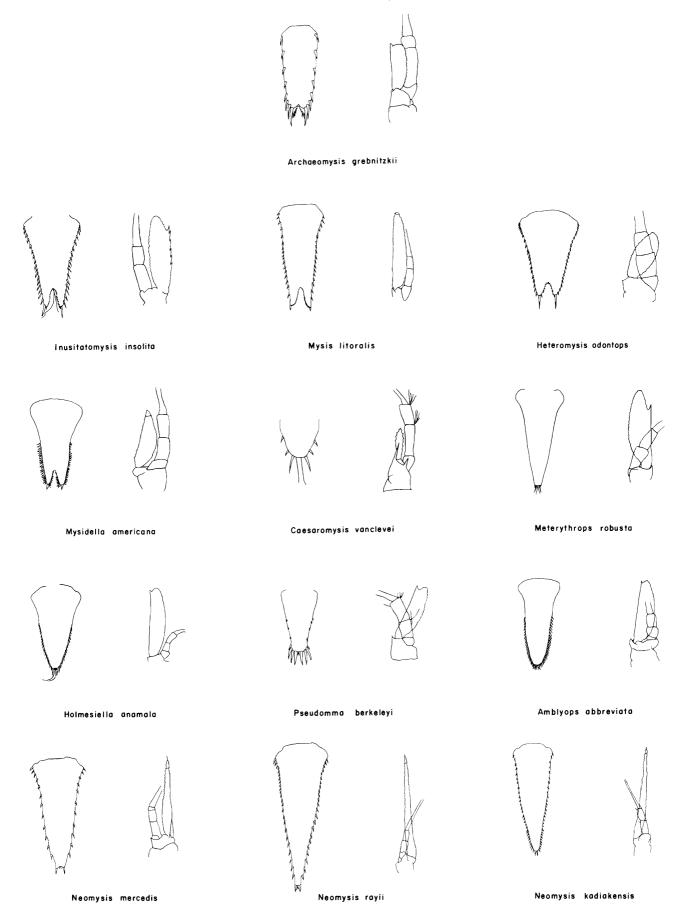


Fig. 3. Telson and antennal scale for each species in key; figures redrawn (not to scale) from original descriptions or redescriptions (Sars 1872, 1879; Smith 1879; Ortmann 1908; Banner 1948a, 1948b; Tattersall 1951; Holmquist 1958–1982; Gleye 1981).

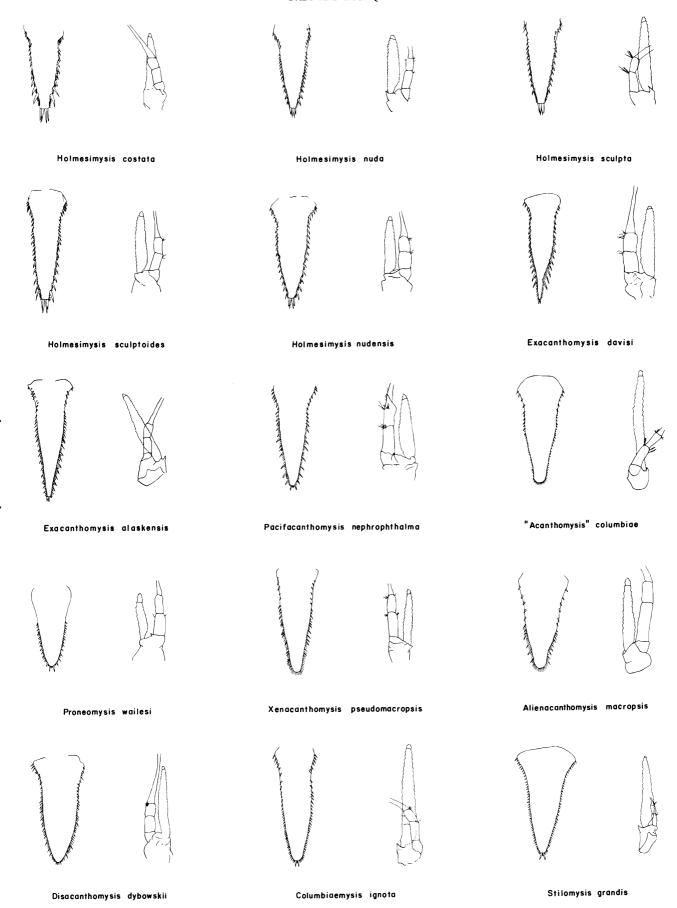


Fig. 3 (concluded)

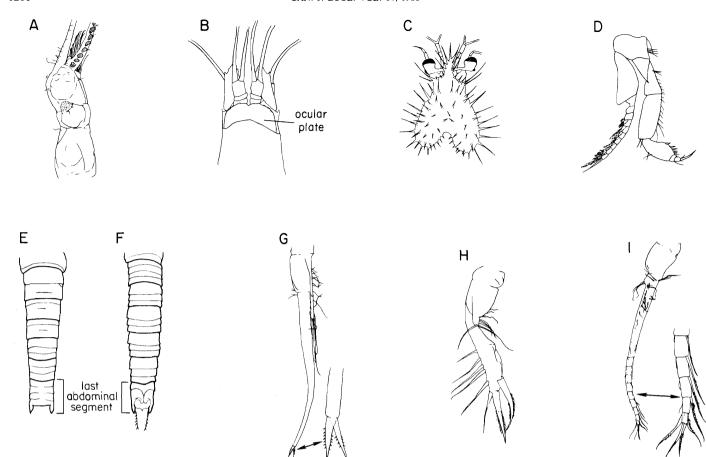


Fig. 4. Unusual diagnostic characters used in key. (A) Antennule of mature male with small striated structures on flagellum (*Xenacanthomysis pseudomacropsis*). (B) Ocular plate (*Pseudomma* sp.). (C) Cephalothorax (*Caesaromysis hispida* according to Banner, 1948). (D) Endopod of strongly built 3rd thoracopod (*Heteromysis odontops*). (E) Dorsal view of abdomen showing 3 pairs of transverse folds and lateral projections on last segment (*Exacanthomysis davisi*). (F) Dorsal view of abdomen showing 2 transverse folds with both middorsal and lateral projections on last segment (*Holmesimysis costata*). (G–I) Various types of 4th pleopods of male. (G) Peg-shaped terminal "setae" (*H. costata*). (H) Awl-shaped terminal "setae" (*X. pseudomacropsis*). (I) Uniramous (*Inusitatomysis insolita*). Figures not to scale: A, original (Daly); B, redrawn from Banner 1948; C, redrawn from Tattersall 1951; D–I, redrawn from Holmquist 1979–1982.

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	Eyes well developed. Carapace with rostrum. Apex of telson truncate with 2 pairs of spines, outer spines longer, and median pair of plumose setae. 4th pleopod of male with endopod much longer than exopod, and 1 long terminal "spine" and a spinule. Large, length up to 30–40 mm
	"Eyes" coalesced, as "ocular plate" (as in Fig. 4A), with median frontal notch and anterolateral margins coarsely serrate. Telson with distal half of lateral margins armed with few small spines; apex broad, arcuate with several pairs of strong spines, outermost shortest, and with median pair of plumose setae. Pleopods of male not described. Small, length up to 8 mm
10 <i>b</i> .	"Eyes" not coalesced, each plate with small anteromedian pointed projection. Telson linguiform, distal two-thirds of lateral margins, including apex, with closely set moderate spines; apex narrowly rounded, with median pair of plumose setae. Pleopods of male without endopods or exopods notably extended. Moderate, length up to about 17 mm
11 <i>b</i> .	Antennal scale with pointed apex. Telson triangular
	Telson with 15 or less widely spaced spines on each lateral margin. 4th pleopod of male slightly curved, almost extending to end of last abdominal segment (Fig. 1A). Moderately large, maximum length about 19 mm
13 <i>a</i> . 13 <i>b</i> .	Distal marginal spines of telson shorter than distance between their bases. Large, length up to about 35 mmNeomysis rayii Distal marginal spines of telson longer than distance between their bases. Moderately large, length up to about 23 mm
	Posterior margin of last abdominal segment with acute middorsal projection (as in Fig. 4E). Telson with several small spines between larger spines on lateral margins; apex with 2 pairs of subequal, stout spines, median pair strongest. 4th pleopod of male with 2 terminal "setae" as peg-shaped structures (Fig. 4G)
	4th pleopod of male with 1–2 terminal "setae" or awl-shaped structures
15a. 15b.	Middorsal and lateral marginal projections only on last abdominal segment
16a.	Abdominal segments each with at least 2 transverse dorsal folds (Fig. 4E). Small to moderately small, length about 7-13 mm
16 <i>b</i> .	b. Abdominal segments usually smooth, occasionally with single transverse dorsal fold on 1 or more of last 3 segments, rarely w 2 folds on only 3rd or 4th segment. Small to moderately small, length about 8-14 mm
	5th abdominal segment with middorsal and lateral marginal projections; 4th, and occasionally 3rd, with middorsal marginal projection; all abdominal segments with at least 2 transverse dorsal folds. Moderately small, maximum length up to about 13 mm
	5th abdominal segment with middorsal and lateral marginal projections, other abdominal segments without projections18
	Abdominal segments with at least 2 transverse dorsal folds. Uropods with 3–5 spines on inner margin at statocyst. Small to moderately small, length about 8–12 mm
	Abdominal segments with transverse dorsal folds, last segment always with three folds not connected middorsally (as in Fig. 4D). Telson with several small spines between larger spines on lateral margins; apex with 2 pairs of spines, median pair smaller. 4th pleopod of male with 2 terminal "setae"
	Telson abruptly narrowing near distal end; lateral margins with large spines conspicuously increasing in size to narrowed distal
	part; distal part with about 12 small spines. Small to moderately small, length about 7-11 mm Exacanthomysis davisi Telson not abruptly narrowing near distal end; lateral margins with large spines not increasing in size, distal part with about 3 small spines. Moderately small to moderate, length about 10.5-15.5 mm Exacanthomysis alaskensis
21 <i>a</i>	Carapace with anterolateral corners rounded. Telson elongate triangular, with several small spines between larger spines on
21 <i>b</i>	margins; apex slightly rounded, with 2 pair of spines, median pair smaller. 4th pleopod of male extending beyond last abdominal segment, with 2 terminal "setae." Moderate size, maximum length about 13 mm Pacifacanthomysis nephrophthalma Carapace with anterolateral corners produced, acute to subacute (except 27b, Stilomysis grandis). Telson more or less linguiform, with either equal or unequal spines on margins
	Anterior margin of carapace with supraocular spine on each side. Antennal scale long, very narrow; margins setose, except at base. Telson with slightly unequal marginal spines. 4th pleopod of male slender, not extending beyond last abdominal segment, with 2 terminal "setae." Moderate size, maximum length about 14 mm
	Telson with subequal spines, lateral margins with spines only on distal half, occasionally with single spine proximally. Antennal
	scale small. 4th pleopod of male scarcely extending beyond last abdominal segment, with terminal "setae." 5th pleopod of male long, with 1 long terminal "seta," reaching beyond telson. Small, maximum length up to about 8 mm. <i>Proneomysis wailesi</i> . Telson with spines on entire length of lateral margins. 4th and 5th pleopods of male otherwise

- 27a. Labrum with long, acute frontal process (Fig. 2I). Distal corner of platelike proximal segment of thoracopodal exopod broadly rounded. Endopod of uropod with few spines on inner margin at statocyst. Male not known. Moderate size, maximum length about 14 mm.
 Columbiaemysis ignota

Annotated species list

ORDER Mysidacea FAMILY Mysidae

SUBFAMILY Gastrosaccinae

Archaeomysis grebnitzkii Czerniavsky, 1882

Callomysis maculata Holmes, 1894; non Archaeomysis maculata (Holmes, 1894) W. M. Tattersall, 1932 (see Holmquist 1975)

Intertidal, common, often abundant, in open coastal or unprotected inland waters above sandy bottom, with pebbles and boulders, sometimes with mud, *Zostera* and kelp; brackish to marine waters, higher salinity water preferred. California to south western Alaska; Japan.

SUBFAMILY Mysinae

TRIBE Erythropini

Amblyops abbreviata (M. Sars, 1868)

Pseudomma abbreviatum M. Sars, 1868; Amblyopsis abbreviata (M. Sars, 1868) G.O. Sars, 1869; Amblyops abbreviata (M. Sars, 1868) G.O. Sars, 1872

Midwater plankton to epibenthos in deep water (150 to 1000 m). North Atlantic region; few specimens recorded from the northeast Pacific may be questionable.

Caesaromysis hispida Ortmann, 1893

Caesaromysis liguriae Colosi, 1916; Caesaromysis vanclevei Banner, 1948

Coastal and oceanic, mid- to deep-water plankton (50 to 1200 m). Oregon to southern Alaska.

Holmesiella anomala Ortmann, 1908

Coastal and oceanic, mid- to deep-water plankton (50 to 900 m). Common. Southern California to Alaska; possibly Korea.

Meterythrops robusta S. I. Smith, 1879

Midwater plankton to epibenthos (50 to >200 m), above sandy—muddy bottom. Northern and Arctic regions of the

Atlantic Ocean; the few records from localities in northeast Pacific may be questionable.

Pseudomma berkeleyi W. M. Tattersall, 1933
Epibenthic in deep water (120 m). Known only from type locality (5 specimens). British Columbia.

TRIBE Mysini

"Acanthomysis" columbiae (W. M. Tattersall, 1933)

Neomysis columbiae W. M. Tattersall, 1933; Acanthomysis columbiae (W. M. Tattersall, 1933) Ii, 1936; uncertain position, Holmquist 1981b

Shallow water (5 to 7 m), sandy bottom. Known from only few specimens. California to British Columbia.

Alienacanthomysis macropsis (W. M. Tattersall, 1932) Neomysis macropsis W. M. Tattersall, 1932; Acanthomysis macropsis (W. M. Tattersall, 1932) Ii, 1936; Alienacanthomysis macropsis (W. M. Tattersall, 1932) Holmquist, 1981

Shallow water, among eelgrass and algae. Not uncommon. California to southern Alaska.

Columbiaemysis ignota Holmquist, 1982

Intertidal, sandy-rocky bottom with algae. Known only from few specimens and localities. British Columbia.

Disacanthomysis dybowskii (Derzhavin, 1913)

Orientomysis dybowskii Derzhavin, 1913; Neomysis dybowskii (Derzhavin, 1913) W. M. Tattersall, 1932; Acanthomysis dybowskii (Derzhavin, 1913) Ii, 1936; Disacanthomysis dybowskii (Derzhavin, 1913) Holmquist, 1981 Shallow coastal waters (to 30 m), with eelgrass and algae. Apparently not common along Washington and British Columbia coasts. Washington to Alaska; Kamchatka and Korea.

Exacanthomysis alaskensis (Banner, 1954)

Acanthomysis alaskensis Banner, 1954; Exacanthomysis alaskensis (Banner, 1954) Holmquist, 1981

Shallow water (to 55 m); clay or rocky bottom, with algae. Few specimens only recorded. San Juan Islands and Alaska.

Exacanthomysis davisi (Banner, 1948)

Acanthomysis davisi Banner, 1948; Exacanthomysis davisi (Banner, 1948) Holmquist, 1981; Neomysis costata: W. M. Tattersall, 1932; Acanthomysis costata: W. M. Tattersall, 1951 (see Holmquist 1979)

Shallow coastal waters, often nearshore, among algae and eelgrass. Common around San Juan Islands. California to southern Alaska.

Holmesimysis costata (Holmes, 1900)

Mysis costata Holmes, 1900; Acanthomysis costata (Holmes, 1900) Ii, 1936; Holmesimysis costata (Holmes, 1900) Holmquist, 1979; non Neomysis costata (Holmes, 1900) W. M. Tattersall, 1932; non Acanthomysis costata: W. M. Tattersall, 1951 (see Holmquist 1979)

Intertidal, among eelgrass, algae, and kelp above sandy or rocky bottom; estuarine, in bays and small inlets. Common, especially in high salinity water. California to British Columbia; Hawaii.

Holmesimysis nuda (Banner, 1948)

Acanthomysis sculpta nuda Banner, 1948; Holmesimysis nuda (Banner, 1948) Holmquist, 1979

Shallow coastal waters; sandy or rocky bottom, with algae, kelp, and eelgrass. Not uncommon. Washington to British Columbia.

Holmesimysis nudensis Holmquist, 1979

Shallow coastal water. Known only from one locality. British Columbia.

Holmesimysis sculpta (W. M. Tattersall, 1933)

Neomysis sculpta W. M. Tattersall, 1933; Acanthomysis sculpta (W. M. Tattersall, 1933) Ii, 1936; Holmesimysis sculpta (W. M. Tattersall, 1933) Holmquist, 1979

Shallow coastal waters. Known definitely from only two localities. British Columbia.

Holmesimysis sculptoides Holmquist, 1979

Shallow coastal waters; muddy, sandy, or rocky bottom, with algae, kelp, and eelgrass. Known from only a few localities. Washington to British Columbia.

Inusitatomysis insolita Ii, 1940

?Inusitatomysis serrata Tattersall, 1951; ?Inusitatomysis californica Băcescu and Gleve, 1979

Midwater plankton to epibenthos (10 to 150 m). Very few specimens recorded. British Columbia; possibly California; Japan.

Mysis litoralis (Banner, 1948)

Pugetomysis litoralis Banner, 1948; Mysis oculata (Fabricius, 1780) Banner, 1954, partim; Mysis litoralis (Banner, 1948) Holmquist, 1958

Shallow to deep water, above sandy-muddy bottom, often in eelgrass. Common around San Juan Islands, otherwise apparently scarce in northeast Pacific. Washington to northern Alaska; circumpolar in Arctic to subarctic region.

Neomysis kadiakensis Ortmann, 1908

Coastal waters, bays and inlets, midwater plankton to epibenthic (to 100 m), rarely in low salinity water. Not uncommon. California to Alaska.

Neomysis mercedis Holmes, 1897

Neomysis awatschensis (Brandt, 1851) Banner, 1954 Euryhaline, fresh to brackish water. Common, often abundant. California to southern Alaska. Neomysis rayii (Murdoch, 1884)

Mysis rayii Murdoch, 1884; Neomysis rayii (Murdoch, 1884) Zimmer, 1904; ?Neomysis franciscorum Holmes, 1900

Plankton (to 100 m); rarely in low salinity water. Not uncommon. California to northern Alaska; Kamchatka Peninsula.

Pacifacanthomysis nephrophthalma (Banner, 1948)

Acanthomysis nephrophthalma Banner, 1948; Pacifacanthomysis nephrophthalma (Banner, 1948) Holmquist, 1981 Coastal; midwater plankton to epibenthos (to 300 m). Few specimens only recorded. California to Alaska.

Proneomysis wailesi W. M. Tattersall, 1933

Shallow to midwater plankton (to 50 m). Common around San Juan Islands, otherwise apparently scarce in northeast Pacific. Washinton to southern Alaska.

Stilomysis grandis (Goës, 1863)

Mysis grandis Goës, 1863; Mysideis grandis (Goës, 1863) G. O. Sars, 1879; Stilomysis grandis (Goës, 1863) Norman, 1892

Midwater plankton to epibenthos (to 500 m). Western Greenland; Spitsbergen; Northern Norway; Novaya Zemlya; one published record from British Columbia and few from Bering Sea may be questionable.

Xenacanthomysis pseudomacropsis (W. M. Tattersall, 1933)

Neomysis pseudomacropsis W. M. Tattersall, 1933; Acanthomysis pseudomacropsis (W. M. Tattersall, 1933) Ii, 1936; Xenacanthomysis pseudomacropsis (W. M. Tattersall, 1933) Holmquist, 1980

Open waters of coastal areas in plankton (to 175 m). Often abundant. Washington to northern Alaska; Kamchatka and Korea.

TRIBE Heteromysini

Heteromysis odontops Walker, 1898

Midwater plankton. Known only from original specimens from Puget Sound; other records are questionable.

SUBFAMILY Mysidellinae

Mysidella americana Banner, 1948

Nearshore to deep water. Known only from original specimens from British Columbia and specimens from southern California.

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