

*Hawaii*

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

HANDBOOK No. 40

CRABS AND  
THEIR RELATIVES  
OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Written and Illustrated  
by  
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*Scleroplax granulata*



*Fabia subquadrata*

## SECTION ANOMURA

### *Key to Families*

1. Crab-like. Abdomen bent under body. Last pair of walking legs small and hidden under edge of carapace.....2
1. Not crab-like. Abdomen may or may not be bent under body. Last pair of walking legs may or may not be small and hidden.....3
2. Abdomen asymmetrical without uropods.....Lithodidae
2. Abdomen symmetrical with uropods.....Porcellanidae
3. Tail fan modified for use as an anchor within hollow objects. Telson figured for each species. Abdomen usually soft and asymmetrical and not clearly segmented.....4
3. Tail fan not used as an anchor. Abdomen calcified and segmented.....6
4. Bases of third maxillipeds close together. Chelipeds alike and subequal.....Diogenidae
4. Bases of third maxillipeds separated. Chelipeds unlike and unequal.....5
5. No accessory teeth on *crista dentata* of ischium of third maxilliped. Paired pleopods on 1st and 2nd abdomen of male. Only left gonopore developed in female.....Parapaguridae
5. One or more accessory teeth on *crista dentata*. No paired pleopods on either sex. Paired gonopores in female.....Paguridae
6. Egg-shaped. No chelipeds. Uropods and telson elongate.....Hippidae
6. Somewhat lobster-shaped. Chelipeds elongate but uropods and telson short.....7
7. Telson with 1 or 2 sutures. Posterior half of abdomen bent under itself with telson tucked over last abdominal segment.....Chirostylidae
7. Telson with numerous sutures. Abdomen bent upon itself but telson not tucked under.....Galatheidae

Family GALATHEIDAE

Key to Species

1. Rostrum spine-like. Eyes pigmented.....  
..... *Munida quadrispina* composite  
1. Rostrum triangular. Eyes without pigment..... *Munidopsis quadrata*

The Genus *Munida* Leach 1820

Carapace sub-rectangular, convex, a few paired spines and lateral margins spined; surface rugose with fringes of short stiff setae. Rostrum long, slender and styliform, with a large spine (supraorbital) on either side of base. Chelipeds elongate and slender. Eyes large, well pigmented and dilated distally. May have rows of small spines on some abdominal segments.

*Munida quadrispina* Benedict 1902

Squat Lobster

**Description**—Carapace longer than wide. 6 spines on gastric area; 4 in one line, and 1 on each side of the ridge near the hepatic region. 8 to 10 marginal spines. Rostrum long and compressed and minutely spined. Chelipeds with numerous spines and narrow fingers. Walking legs compressed and armed with short spines. Abdomen ridged but not spined except for minute spines on tail fan. Males with paired uniramous gonopods on 1st and 2nd abdominal segments. Female with small paired pleopods on segments 2 to 5.

**Colour**—Carapace and abdomen red-brown overall, ventrally lighter or white; ridges red with grooves white, and blue spots in cervical groove. Chelipeds with red spines; fingers red with distinct white tips. Walking legs with irregular light bands. Tail fan light coloured.

**Habitat**—Rocky areas, gravel, mud and sponge beds. They are predators on other crustacea and can do considerable damage in shrimp traps.

**Size**—Length 35 mm; large specimens, up to 67 mm, often taken in fjords, are probably an undescribed species.

**Range**—Sitka, Alaska, to Los Coronados Islands, Mexico; from 22 to 1463 m.

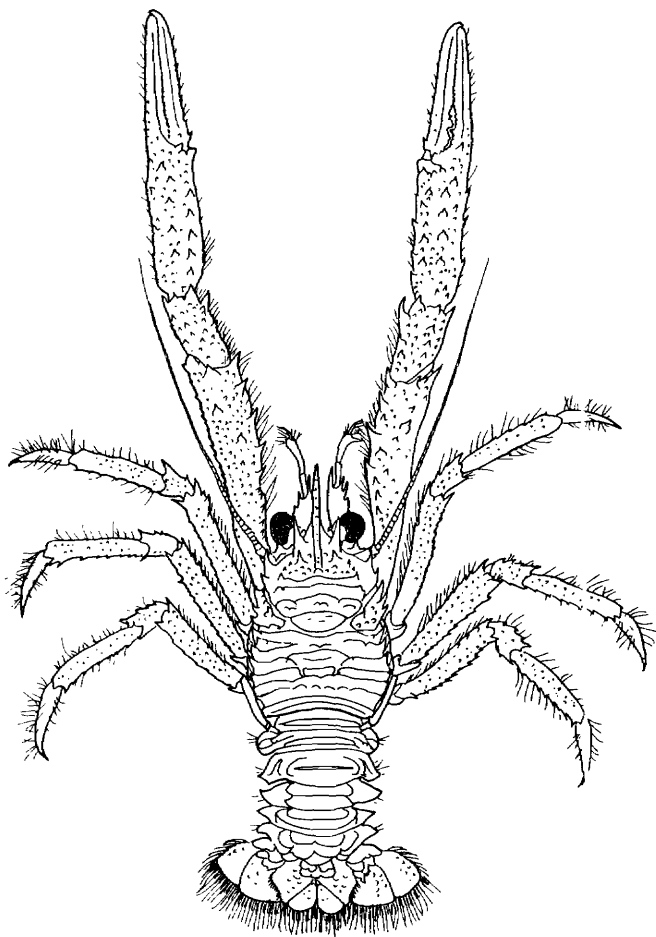


Fig. 66 *Munida quadrispina*: male, dorsal view.

**Distribution in British Columbia**—Type locality is Albatross Station 2878, off Cape Beale; 121 m. Widespread. A careful study of material at hand will probably reveal undescribed species.

## The Genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves 1874

Carapace more or less quadrilateral and relatively flat. Strongly calcified and usually rugose, spinose and tuberculate. Rostrum well developed, without large spines (superorbital) at base. Cornea of eyes opaque, without pigment. Abdominal segments often with spines or tubercles.

### *Munidopsis quadrata* Faxon 1893

**Description**—Carapace nearly rectangular, with numerous granules. Rostrum triangular. Chelipeds long, with spines, granules and short setae; fingers flattened, shorter than palm and rounded terminally. Walking legs short, with scattered granules; propodus subequal to merus in length; dactyl with spined ventral margins and curved tip. Abdomen with granular patches, a median blunt tooth on 2nd, 3rd and 4th segments. Tail fan with telson composed of 9 plates. Male with paired gonopods on abdominal segments 1 and 2. Female with paired pleopods on segments 3 to 5. A few disproportionately large eggs are carried, indicating repression of the planktonic phase in development.

**Colour**—Carapace pinkish-tan with grooves white. Rostrum pink and white. Chelipeds white with faint tan areas and distal half of finger opaque white; ventrally, basis orange and ischium pink. Walking legs white and pale tan. Abdomen pinkish tan with white, medially; tips of spines and tubercles may be white. Tail fan translucent. Eyestalk pinkish tan; cornea bright orange internally and covered with a translucent white film.

**Habitat**—Mud and sand.

**Size**—Carapace: male 15.5 × 9 mm; female 13 × 8 mm. Total length: male 29 mm.

**Range**—Off Englefield Bay, Queen Charlotte Island (53°1.5'N, 132°54.3'W), British Columbia, to Tres Marias Islands, Mexico; from 86 to 1572 m.

**Distribution in British Columbia**—Off Englefield Bay, Queen Charlotte Islands, and SW of La Pérouse Bank.



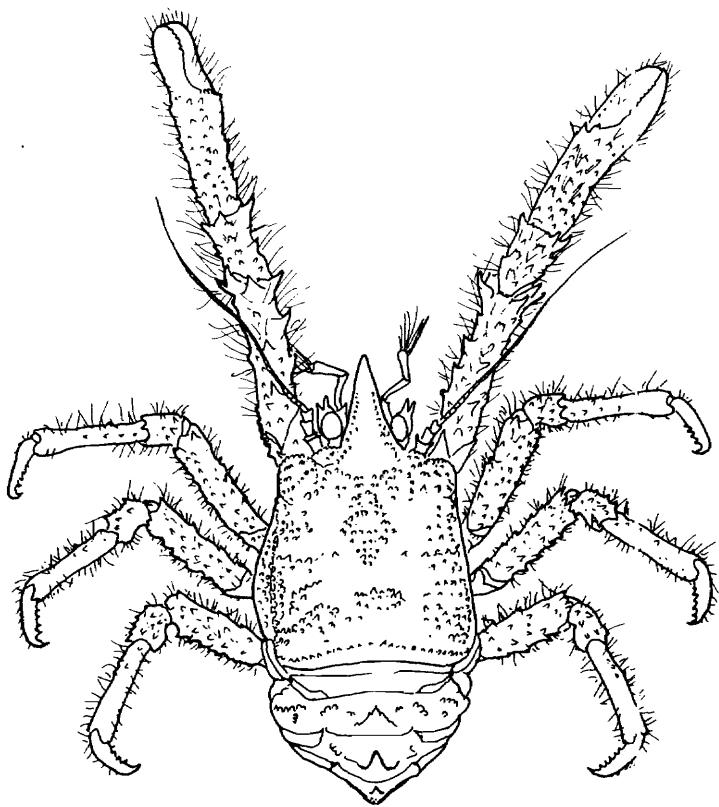


Fig. 67 *Munidopsis quadrata*: female, dorsal view.

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