Common Name: common acorn barnacle

Scientific Name: *Balanus glandula*

(BAL-a-nus glan-DU-la)

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 2 cm high and wide
- Grey-white colour
- Four closing plates with a black lining form a tight seal
- Pink, claw-like feet 'cirri' come out of these barnacles when feeding

Habitat & Range

- Upper intertidal zone
- Rocks, floats, pilings, boats
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on plankton
- Predators are nudibranchs, snails, ducks, gulls, nemertean worm

Reproduction

- They are hermaphroditic and fertilize neighbours through direct insemination
- Females release larvae, which drift until they grow large enough to settle
- Larvae fasten themselves to the rock where they continue to grow for the rest of their life

Additional Information

- A barnacle's penis can be up to 20 times its own body length
- Can live up to 10 years
- Light sensitive and will close if a shadow passes over it
- Was introduced in Argentina where it is an invasive species harming local mussel and barnacle populations

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: giant acorn barnacle / horse barnacle

Scientific Name: *Balanus nubilus*

(BAL-a-nus NOO-bil-us)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 10 cm in diameter, 12.5 cm high
- Colonial species that are often found growing in clusters on top of one another
- Yellow-lined closing plates, two of the four closing plates are hooked
- Pink, claw-like feet 'cirri' come out of these barnacles when feeding

Habitat and Range

- Intertidal to 90 m deep
- Rocks and pilings
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey and Predators

- Prey on plankton, detritus
- Predators are sea stars

Reproduction

- They are hermaphroditic and fertilize neighbours through direct insemination
- Females release larvae, which drift until they hit a rocky substrate
- Larvae fasten themselves to the rock where they continue to grow for the rest of their life

Additional Information

- *"Balanus"* means acorn and *"nubilus"* means cloudy
- Collected, roasted, and eaten by First Nations
- The empty shells of dead barnacles provide homes for other animals like the grunt sculpin and pygmy red rock crab
- Adult barnacles secrete a chemical to attract larval barnacles to increase the number of barnacles living in one area and make mating easier for these permanently stationed organisms

Common Name: Pacific prawn / spot prawn / spot shrimp

Scientific Name: *Pandalus platyceros*

(pan-DAL-us PLAT-ee-sare-ohs)

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Defining Characteristics

- Max length of 25 cm
- Stripes on its red body with two pairs of white spots on its tail/abdomen

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 500 m deep
- Rocky bottom
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on shrimp, worms, sponges, molluscs, dead fish
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Separate sexes with internal fertilization
- Mature prawns breed in the autumn
- Females carry fertilized eggs under their abdomen

Additional Information

- This prawn is actually a shrimp, the largest shrimp in the Salish Sea
- One of seven commercial species of shrimp captured in British Columbia
- The Pacific prawn lives its first two years as a mature male, and then turns into a female for the final year of its life (protandric hermaphrodism)

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: graceful kelp crab / spider crab / slender kelp crab

Scientific Name: *Pugettia gracilis*

(PEW-jet-ee-a GRAH-sil-is)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 4 cm across the carapace
- Decorator crab with a smooth, clean carapace
- Mostly reddish brown, but can be yellowish
- Long, slender, pointed legs
- The ends of the claws may be blue with orange tips

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 140 m deep
- In eelgrass meadows, kelp, rocky shores, pilings
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on algae, bryozoans, sea squirts
- Predators are sea stars, shore birds, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Separate sexes with internal fertilization
- Egg-laying

Additional Information

- *"gracilis"* means slender
- Decorates itself with algae and other organisms like coral

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: hermit crab

Scientific Name: *Pagurus* spp.

(pa-GUR-us)

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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 1-5 cm in a borrowed shell
- Have a soft abdomen, which is protected by the borrowed shell
- An enlarged right pincer with its other legs compressed and tightly curled
- Ranges in colour from yellowish-green to red or brown

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal waters up to 435 m deep
- Rocky shores, tide pools, open and protected coasts
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on dead plants and animals (detritus)
- Predators are sea stars, shore birds

Reproduction

- Separate sexes with internal fertilization
- Lay eggs

Additional Information

- It may fight other hermit crabs for a home if there is a shortage of empty snail shells
- Do not try and pull a hermit crab from out of its shell, the hook-like tail clings to the inside of the borrowed shell and this crab will allow itself to be ripped in two before it will come out of its shell
- As the hermit crab grows larger, they must take the risk of shedding their shells to switch into a larger one

Common Name: longhorn decorator crab / decorator crab

Scientific Name: *Chorilia longipes*

(KOR-ill-ee-a LON-jip-ees)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 5 cm across carapace
- Spiny, pear-shaped carapace
- Pale orange, often with banded legs

Habitat & Range

- Shallow subtidal to 1200 m deep
- Rocks, boulders, pilings
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on small animals, algae
- Predators are sea stars, shore birds, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

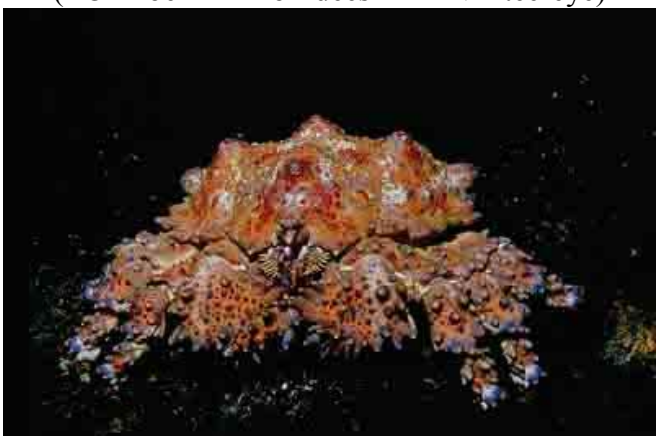
Additional Information

- Decorates itself with algae, sponge and other organisms

Common Name: Puget Sound king crab / box crab

Scientific Name: *Lopholithodes mandtii*

(LOE-foe-LITH-oh-dees MAND-tee-eye)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 30 cm across carapace
- Box-like body with four large cone-like bumps and short, stubby legs
- Adults are a mix of red, orange, purple
- Juveniles are bright red-orange

Habitat & Range

- Subtidal waters to 140 m deep
- Rock out-crops with strong currents
- Alaska to central California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on sea stars, anemones, sea cucumbers, other echinoderms
- Predators are fish, octopuses, other king crabs, sea otters

Reproduction

- Move to shallow waters in the late winter or spring to breed
- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- Listed as a protected species in British Columbia
- One of the largest crabs on the Pacific coast
- When the Puget Sound king crab curls up in defence, all of its legs fit snugly together and it looks like a box

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: pygmy rock crab / Oregon cancer crab / cancer crab

Scientific Name: *Cancer oregonensis*

(CAN-ser or-e-GON-en-sis)

©Terrance Fidler/robots4farms.com

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 5 cm across carapace
- Dull red with black-tipped pincers
- Circular carapace with short hairy legs

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 440 m deep
- Lives inside of small holes/crevices, commonly found in the empty shells of giant acorn barnacles
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on algae, barnacles,
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- Nicknamed hairy cancer crab for its fuzzy legs

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: red rock crab

Scientific Name: *Cancer productus*

(CAN-ser pro-DUCT-us)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 20 cm across carapace
- Adults are deep red
- Juveniles are white to grey with patterns on their carapace
- Round 'teeth' found on the inside of black-tipped pincers

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 90 m deep
- Quiet bays to exposed coasts
- Eelgrass beds, rocky shores, tide pools
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on bivalves, snails, barnacles, dead animals
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- Was an important food source for First Nations
- Not as favoured as the Dungeness crab for harvesting because they are smaller and have a very hard, thick shell
- The European green crab is an invasive species found on the west coast of Vancouver Island that preys on juvenile red rock and Dungeness crabs

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: rhinoceros crab / golf ball crab

Scientific Name: *Rhinolithodes wosnessenskii*

(RIE-no-LITH-o-dees WOZ-ne-SHEN-skee-eye)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 7 cm across carapace
- The front of this crab's triangular carapace resembles the horn of a rhinoceros
- Semi-circular orange and white grooves on carapace
- Spiny claws and legs covered with long brown hair

Habitat & Range

- Shallow subtidal to 70 m deep
- Rocky or gravel bottoms, or rock walls
- Alaska to northern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on barnacles, worms, clams, mussels
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- Slow moving yet well camouflaged
- Even the eye-stalks have spines on the back

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: sharpnose crab / masking crab

Scientific Name: *Scyra acutifrons*

(SKY-rah a-CUTE-i-frons)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 5 cm across carapace
- Pear-shaped carapace with two flattened, leaf-like horns
- Short walking legs with long, slender, orange-tipped claws
- Brown or tan, but often decorated with barnacles, algae, seaweed, sponges, or bryozoans

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 230 m deep
- Rocky areas, wharf pilings and floats
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on detritus, small invertebrates
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Separate sexes with external fertilization
- Female can reproduce anytime of year
- Egg-laying

Additional Information

- *"acutifrons"* means sharp nose
- Often found tucked in with anemones
- Have a 'terminal' molt where mature individuals can no longer grow

Common Name: tanner crab / snow crab

Scientific Name: *Chionoecetes bairdi*

(KIE-own-o-SEET-ees BARE-deye)

©Bernard P. Hanby

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 20 cm across carapace
- Oval carapace with long, slender, flattened walking legs
- Short, iridescent claws

Habitat & Range

- Subtidal shallows to 475 m deep
- Mud to bedrock
- Bering Sea to Oregon

Prey & Predators

- Prey on worms, clams, mussels, snails, fish parts
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs, or can mate with mature females who will no longer molt, but will produce new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- *"Chionoe"* means snow and "*cetes"* means dweller
- In Alaskan fish markets people call them snow crabs
- A female tanner crab may incubate more than 400,000 eggs for a whole year in her abdominal flap

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: butterfly crab / umbrella crab / turtle crab

Scientific Name: *Cryptolithodes* spp.
(KRYP-toe-LITH-o-dees)

Mary Jo Adams

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 8 cm across carapace
- Long, oval carapace extends beyond legs
- Dark grey-blue, white, brown, red (males)
- Central strip of carapace often a different colour than 'wings'

Habitat & Range

- Low intertidal to 45 m deep
- Rocky banks or shell-littered bottoms near rock walls
- High current areas, open coast or inland
- Alaska to California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on bryozoans, coralline algae, other organisms
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- Named from the resemblance of the long carapace to open butterfly wings

Phylum Arthropoda

Common Name: heart crab / heart lithodid / papilla crab / flat spined triangle crab

Scientific Name: *Phyllolithodes papillosus*

(FIE-lo-LITH-o-dees PAP-ill-o-sus)

Digital photo by Jan Haaga

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 9 cm across carapace
- Grey-brown with orange markings
- Triangular or heart-shaped carapace
- Legs are white-tipped and have long flattened spines

Habitat & Range

- Shallow subtidal to 110 m deep
- Rocky reefs with high current
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on sponges, sea urchins
- Predators are sea stars, fish, octopuses

Reproduction

- Pheromones (chemical attractants) released by females after their eggs have hatched attract male crabs
- Male crabs remain with the female until she molts and produces new eggs
- Male crabs hold the female face to face and transfers his sperm to her
- The fertilized eggs are then laid on her abdominal flap where they remain until the larvae hatch and are released into the ocean

Additional Information

- After molting, the crab takes refuge under the tentacles of the crimson (snakelock) anemone