

## **AMPHIPOD CARE**

SOP# - ARTH1

**PURPOSE:** To describe the method of care for amphipods.

**POLICY:** To provide optimum care for all animals.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Collector and user of the animals. If these are not the same person, the user takes over responsibility of the animals as soon as the animals have arrived on station.

### **PROCEDURE:**

At present, the following species have been held at BMSC.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Beach hopper	<i>Traskorchestia traskiana</i>
Black-and-White Sea Flea	<i>Chromopleustes oculatus</i>
California Beach Hopper	<i>Megalorchestia californiana</i>
Pale Beach Hopper	<i>Megalorchestia columbiana</i>
Lettuce Sea Flea	<i>Ampithoe lacertosa</i>
Dark Sea Flea	<i>Hyale pugetensis</i>

**Note:** There is quite a diversity of subtidal species which are not mentioned above.

### **Identification**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b><i>Traskorchestia traskiana</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maximum length ~2cm.</li><li>▪ They are usually dark gray; antennae are not distinctively colored</li><li>▪ Typically found at borders of bays, estuaries, and salt marshes; may also occur on somewhat protected beaches of the open coast.</li><li>▪ Abundance on and around decaying seaweed (beach wrack).</li></ul>

Refer to Eugene N. Kozloff 's book, "Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast" for in-depth descriptions of individual specimens.

### **Sites**

Intertidal sites are found on the shores of:

- The Deer Group Islands
- Dixon I.
- Scott's Bay

- Off the Blowhole
- Along Grappler Inlet
- Harbor mouth across from Aguilar Pt.
- Pachena Beach (permit must first be obtained from the local First Nations band office).

### **Collection Methods**

Amphipods can be:

- Scooped up in a small jar.
- Collected with pitfall traps dug into the ground.

### **Holding**

Amphipods should be held in small, screened containers with a constant flow of seawater. Screen cannot be so fine that it frequently clogs with debris; debris will prevent water flow through the container and eventually suffocate the animals.

### **Feeding**

Amphipods can be fed with microscopic organisms and algae.

### **Habitat**

Amphipods require:

- A few pieces of algae
- A rock or a piece of seaweed (so that they may occasionally climb out of the water).

Amphipods do not require sediment.

### **Tank Cleaning**

*Frequency:* Once a week

*Procedure:*

1. Amphipods should be removed from the container and placed into a holding bucket.
2. Tanks should be drained and the sides and bottom should be scrubbed and rinsed with warm freshwater.
3. The tanks should then be rinsed with cold seawater and allowed to refill, and the amphipods replaced.

### **Animal Return**

Return animals to the site of collection.

### **DAILY ACTIVITIES**

1. Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate.
2. Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked.
3. Check for and remove and dead animals.
4. Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms.
5. Check for and remove and foreign organisms.

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