

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.

IDENTIFICATION:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Identifying Characteristics
Beach hopper	<i>Traskorchestia traskiana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maximum length is about 2cm- They are usually dark gray- Their antennae are not distinctively colored- Typically found at the borders of bays, estuaries and salt marshes, but also occurs on somewhat protected beaches- Abundant on and around decaying seaweed (tidal wrack) 
Black-and-white sea flea	<i>Chromopleustes oculatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Black with gold lateral striping- Large white patch on back and underside- Purple antennae 

California beach hopper	<i>Megalorchestia californiana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two outrageously long, thick antenna - Antennae are reddish-orange - Body is tan in colour - Length up to 2.8 cm 
Pale beach hopper	<i>Megalorchestia columbiana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pale grey with dark 'butterfly' markings - Reaches 2 cm in length - Antennae are the same colour as body 
Sea lettuce sea flea	<i>Ampithoe lacertosa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colour varies from translucent white, to bright green, to brownish green - Dainty antennae 

Dark sea flea	<i>Hyale pugetensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark in colour with tiny white flecks - Relatively stubby antennae 
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Note: There is quite a diversity of subtidal species which are not mentioned above.

CAPTURE:

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intertidal sites are found on the shores of the Deer Group Islands, Dixon I., Scott's Bay, off the Blowhole, along Grappler Inlet and at the Harbor mouth across from Agulhas Pt - Pachena Beach is a very good place to collect amphipods however a permit must be obtained from the local First Nations band office
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be scooped up in a small jar - Collected with pitfall traps dug into the ground

ANIMAL CARE:

Holding Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be held in small screened containers with a constant flow of seawater - Be sure that screen is not so fine that it frequently clogs with debris; this will prevent water flow through the container and eventually suffocate the animals - Amphipods generally do not need sediment but a few small pieces of algae can be used for habitat - Intertidal species should have a rock or a piece of seaweed in the container to allow them to occasionally climb out of the water
Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amphipods can be fed with microscopic organisms and algae
Tank Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once a week the amphipods should be removed from the container and placed into a holding bucket - The tanks should be drained and the sides and bottom should be scrubbed and rinsed with warm freshwater - The tanks should then be rinsed with cold seawater and allowed to refill, and the amphipods replaced

Daily Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate.-Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked.-Check for and remove dead animals.-Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms.-Check for and remove foreign organisms.
Animal Return	- Animals must be returned to the site of collection

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