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Poster Presentation P6

RESOLVING TAXONOMY OF CASTRATING CRUSTACEANS

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The Northeast Pacific bopyrid isopod crustaceans *Ione cornuta* (Bate, 1864) and *Orthione griffenis* (Markham, 2004) parasitize, castrate and sometimes control the populations of their estuarine burrowing shrimp hosts. The epicaridan, microniscan and cryptoniscan larval stages have not been described for any eastern Pacific bopyrid because the lack of morphological similarity among bopyrid larval stages and the adult stage has hindered taxonomic identification. This further limits research on the ecology, geography, and dispersal of bopyrid isopods. Unmated reproductive females of *I. cornuta* and *O. griffenis* were transplanted in their hosts, in-situ, to attract, capture, and, positively identify the cryptoniscans. The trapping method for capture of cryptoniscans to resolve taxonomy opens bopyrid larvae for study in marine and estuary ecosystems.