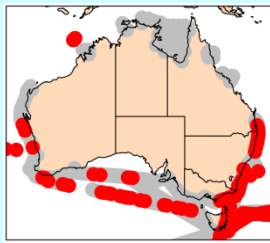
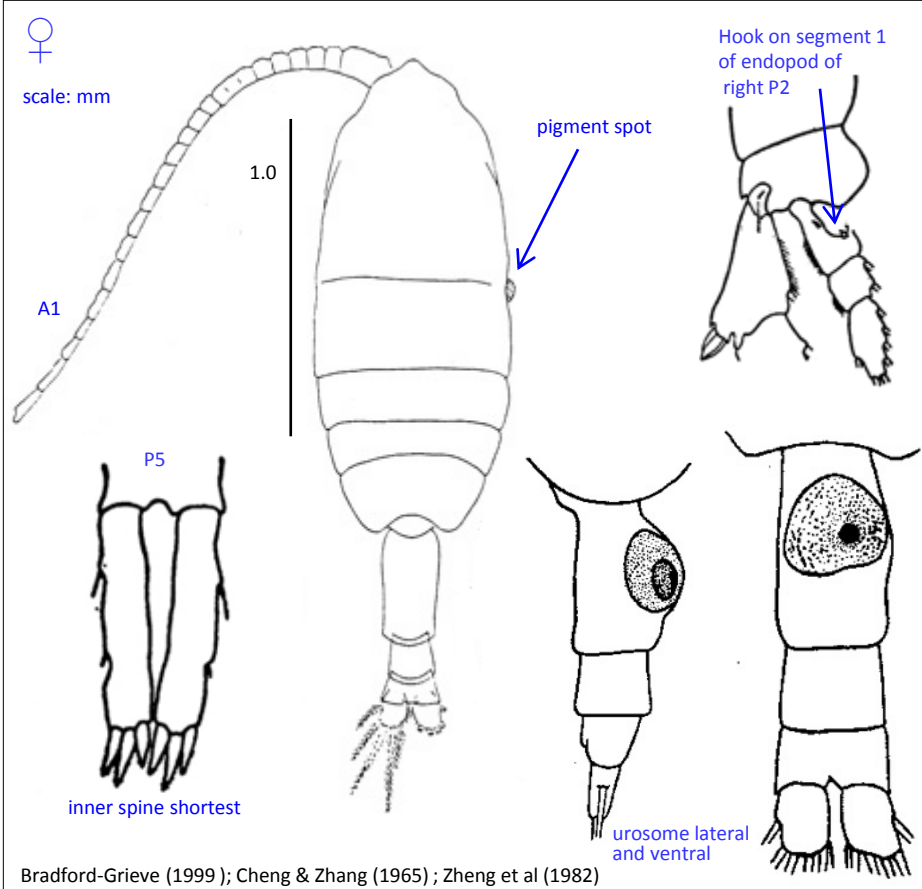


Pleuromamma gracilis

Claus, 1863



Phylum	Arthropoda
Order	Calanoida
Family	Metridinidae



Bradford-Grieve (1999); Cheng & Zhang (1965); Zheng et al (1982)

Synonyms

- Pleuromamma gracile* (Claus, 1863)
- Pleuromamma gracilis maxima* (Steuer, 1932)
- Pleuromamma gracilis minima* (Steuer, 1932)

Size

Female: 1.60 – 2.55 mm

Genus notes

- Cephalosome with short, acute apical process
- Rostrum massive with 2 hairy filaments
- Typically have red/brown pigment spot on the side of body around the junction of first body somite - depending on species can be on left or right side
- Female P5 with 1 free segment and 3 short spines on distal segment
- Male right P5, terminal segment strongly curved, round; preceding segment with long curved inner spine
- Male urosome often asymmetrical with curved somites and setal bundles

Female

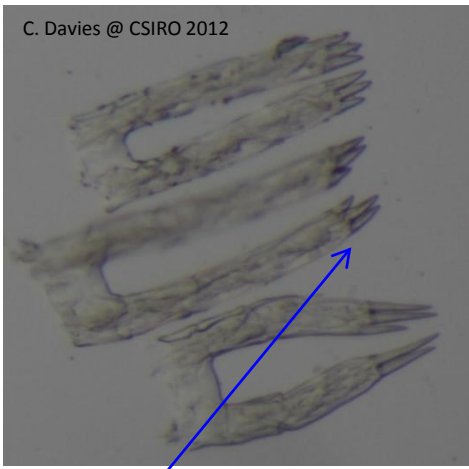
- Pigment spot on right side
- Proximal segments of A1 with small low denticles
- P5 with 1 free segment with 3 terminal spines and 2 thin outer spines
- Very similar to *P. borealis* and *P. piseki*, look at form of P5 and size

Distribution

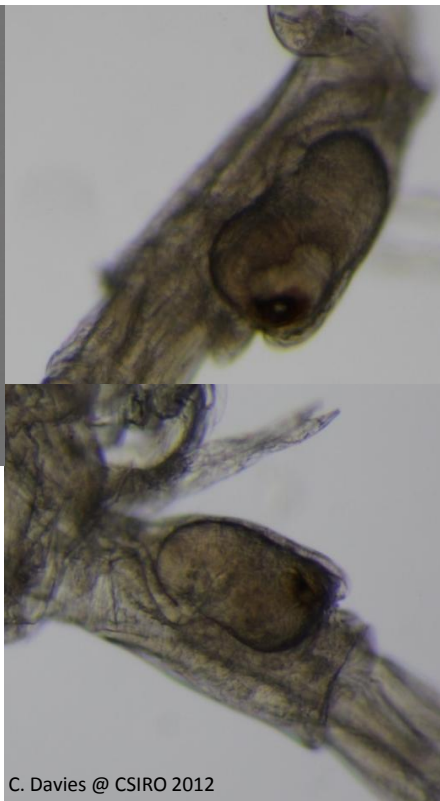
- Mesopelagic - epipelagic
- Oceanic
- Widespread in all oceans
- Found throughout Australian oceanic waters

Ecology

- Produces 3 – 4 generations year-1
- Forms large swarms, up to 100 m in length
- Produces bioluminescence that is stronger at night; luminescent glands are present on prosome, the bases of the swimming legs and antennules
- Undergoes diel vertical migration over hundreds of metres
- Display negative phototaxis
- Suspension feeders



shortest spine on the inside cf. *P. borealis* below and *P. piseki* above



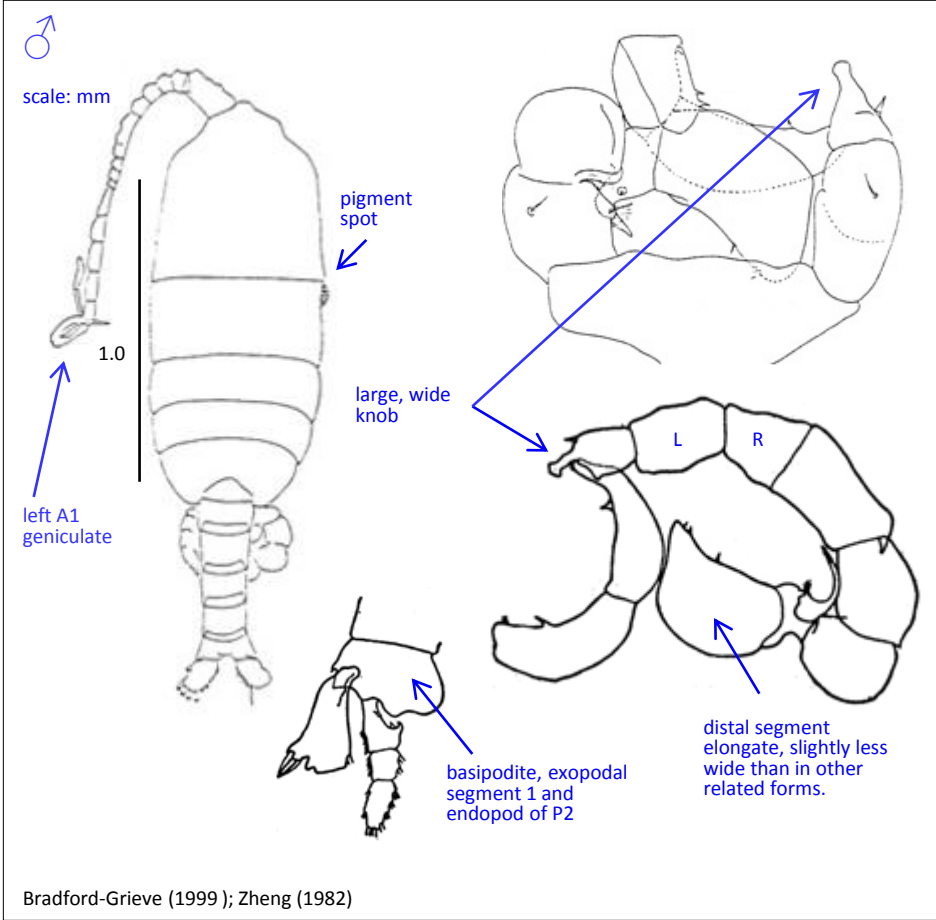
C. Davies @ CSIRO 2012



Phylum Arthropoda
Order Calanioda
Family Metridinidae

Pleuromamma gracilis

Claus, 1863



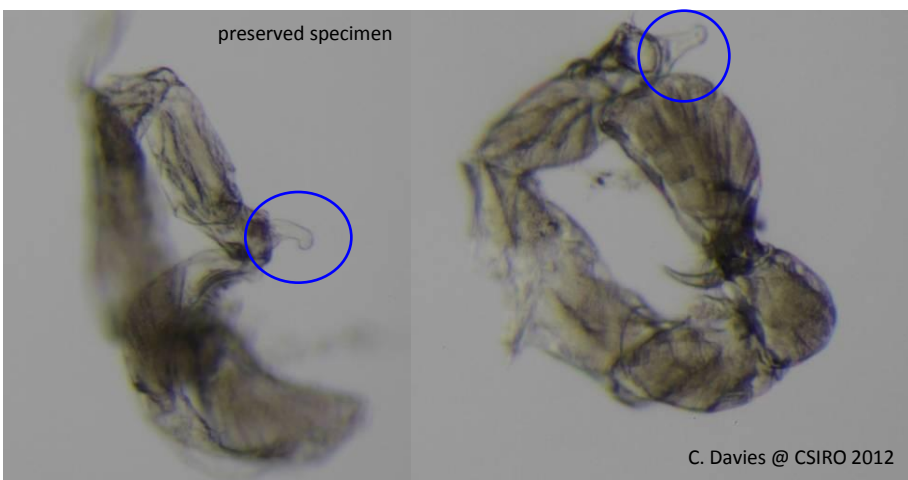
Bradford-Grieve (1999); Zheng (1982)

Size
 Male: 1.51 – 2.25 mm

- Male**
- Pigment spot on right side
 - Left A1 geniculate, toothed ridges on segments 17, 18, 19-21, serrations variable
 - P2 endopod segment 1 with denticles on right side only
 - Distal segment of right P5 elongate, slightly less wide than other *Pleuromamma* species, penultimate segment has a curved process with a double row of blunt tubercles

Source
 Bradford-Grieve (1999)
 Buskey *et al.* (1989)
 Shmeleva & Kovalev (1974)
 Wiebe (1970)
 Zheng (1982)

(Full reference available at <http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/zooplankton/references>)



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