

FOREWORD

Greg Jensen set out to produce the most up-to-date, informative, colorful, engaging field guide to decapods of temperate Pacific shores possible, and he has succeeded admirably. This book is a treasure, and it is natural history at its best. It follows in the tradition of T. H. Butler's "Shrimps of the Pacific Coast of Canada" (1980) and Josephine Hart's "Crabs and Their Relatives of British Columbia" (1984), but it far exceeds them in every way. Nowhere else can one find color photographs and intricate anatomical and ecological notes for so many living Pacific decapod crustaceans.

The earlier edition of this book, one of the wonderful Sea Challengers field guides produced by Dan Gotshall, was the first serious attempt to provide color images in a field guide to Pacific crustaceans, and it was enormously useful. This second edition, published as both a print and e-book, adds over a hundred species to the coverage, as well as many engaging new details and one-of-a-kind original photographs. I note that the first edition had a Foreword by the great Pacific invertebrate zoologist (and one of my own mentors), Eugene Kozloff. What an honor it is to have been asked by Greg to follow in Gene's footsteps!

Greg's writing is engaging, laced with dry humor, and packed with naturalist's insight. This book is information-rich, in every way. The narratives ring true and are in the voice of a seasoned naturalist who has spent a great deal of his life in the field—much of what you read in this book has never been published elsewhere. Many of the photo sequences are similarly unique (the photos of parasitized decapods are especially exciting!). The biographical vignettes of famous carcinologists are both entertaining and enlightening.

The e-book bonus of interactive portals is a huge benefit, providing users with images and videos of these beasts in nature, links to references, etc. And the species keys are a wonderful addition to the literature that will be valued by both amateurs and specialists for many years to come.

This is a book for every Pacific coast naturalist, scientist, and beachcomber. Every time you use it, it will offer up new and exciting information about the decapod you are examining, and bring a smile to your face.

Richard C. Brusca

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Widehand hermit, *Elassochirus tenuimanus*