

length subequal to distal width; segment 1 largely obscured by proximal expansion of segment 2; segments 2 to 5 each with a distinct transverse ridge across middle of segment, ridges on 2nd and 3rd segments edged proximally with a very dense fringe of long hairs; penultimate segment with trace of transverse ridge centrally only; 3rd segment with a rather indistinct, low rounded boss on each side of midline distal to transverse ridge. Surface of abdomen, sternum and ventral surface of body and appendages in general covered with short, fine, dark-coloured tomentum.

First pleopod of male stout and straight, subdistally slightly swollen, tip elongate, acute; groove extending along sternal surface proximally, curving around medial surface at level of swollen subdistal portion to become abdominal distally; a patch of small, closely spaced spinules present on lateral and sternal surfaces of swollen subdistal section, passing on to sternal and medial aspects of tip.

Colour

Carapace and dorsal surface of chelipeds and walking legs mottled with dark red over a background of pinkish red. No trace of iridescence, but with some small white marks on various ridges and spines. Ventral surface of body and legs pale with some regularly placed bands of red across sternum and coxa of each leg. These bands and the general dark-coloured tomentum of the body surface give the sternum a general dark appearance in contrast to the pale appearance of the *N. bennetti* sternum. Fingers of chelae dark red on the longitudinal ridges especially on the inner surface.

TABLE I.—Dimensions (in mm) of *Nectocarcinus bennetti* and *N. antarcticus*.

Dimension	<i>N. bennetti</i>		<i>N. antarcticus</i>	
	study male	study female	study male	study female
Carapace length	55.7	36.4	55.2	53.5
Carapace width	72.4	45.3	72.7	70.9
Cheliped length	85.1	50.3	89.6	77.5
Chela length	43.7	24.9	44.4	38.9
Chela height	19.2	10.7	18.7	15.0
Ambulatory leg 2 length	100.4	59.8	98.4	92.7

Remarks

The most obvious differences between the two subantarctic species of *Nectocarcinus* are the colour (including iridescence), hairiness, and shape of the abdomen and first pleopod in males. Although the position and relative size of the structures on the carapace is the same in both species there are marked differences in the position of the larger tubercles making up the structures. In *N. stephensoni* the granules are somewhat uniformly distributed over each structure, the protogastric structure is almost continuous with that near the second anterolateral tooth, the granules making up the cardiac and medial postcardiac structures merge into one another and the posterolateral structure is curved and subparallel with the posterior border. In *N. antarcticus*, on the other hand, the protogastric structure, like the mesogastric in both species, is widely separated from that near the anterolateral tooth, the granules on the structures are typically larger and more concentrated near the anterior part (particularly noticeable on the protogastric, mesogastric, epibranchial and cardiac ridges) with smoother, naked areas behind them, the granules on the cardiac and medial postcardiac structures are distinctly separated by a smooth area and the posterolateral structure is straight and set at a slight angle to the posterior border. There are differences between the two species in the shape and tuberculation of the frontal lobes, although these are slight and variable, in the relative prominence of the outer dorsal ridge of the palm of the chelae, in the shape of the teeth on the fingers of the chelae, although in *N. bennetti* those on the right chela are not always larger than those on the left and the arrangement of the teeth is variable, and in the relative length of the medial spine of the cheliped carpus. Finally, the anterolateral teeth of the carapace stand out much more in *N. bennetti* so that the whole of the margin of the anterior part of the carapace does not appear to be as smoothly rounded as in *N. antarcticus*.