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Larvae of *Petrolisthes novaezelandiae* Filhol, 1885
(Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura)

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Abstract

THE zoea and megalopa larvae of *Petrolisthes novaezelandiae* from Wellington Harbour, New Zealand, are described and a key to the zoea larval stages is given. The larvae differ from the generic larval type and can only be compared closely with those of the genus *Porcellana*. Consequential taxonomic implications are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

PORCELLANID crabs, commonly known as "half-crabs" are widely known through *Petrolisthes elongatus* which is extremely abundant between the tide marks on nearly all rocky and stony beaches of New Zealand. However, adults of *P. novaezelandiae* are rarely found intertidally, but the species has been often recorded in depths between 2 fathoms and 40 fathoms in many New Zealand localities from the Bay of Islands south to the Otago Peninsula.

The planktonic zoea larvae of the family Porcellanidae are characterised by an enormously long rostrum and posterior carapace spines. The larvae of three species are found in the Wellington Harbour plankton, with those of *P. novaezelandiae* being the most abundant.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abd. = Abdomen.
Abd. Seg. 6 = Abdominal Segment 6.
An. = Anus.
Arth. Br. = Arthrobranch.
Basip. = Basipodite.
Carp. = Carpopodite.
Cox. = Coxopodite.
Cpce. = Carapace.
Dact. = Dactylopodite.
Dist. End. = Distal Endite.
End. 1-4 = Endites 1 to 4.
Endop. = Endopodite.
Epip. = Epipodite.
Ex. = Exite.
Exop. = Exopodite.
Gill B. = Gill Buds.
Inc. Pr. = Incisor Process.
I.R. = Inner Ramus.
Isch. = Ischiopodite.
Lat. Pl. = Lateral Plate.

Lat. Sp. = Lateral Spine.
Med. Pl. = Median Plate.
Mer. = Meropodite.
Mol. S. = Molar Surface.
Mxpd. 3 = Maxilliped 3.
O.R. = Outer Ramus.
Ped. = Peduncle.
Per. 1-5 = Pereiopods 1 to 5.
Pleur. Br. = Pleurobranch.
Plp. = Palp.
Plpds. = Pleopods.
Post. Pl. = Posterior Plate.
Post. Sp. = Posterior Spine.
Pr. End. = Proximal Endite.
Prop. = Propodite.
Prot. = Protopodite.
Rost. = Rostrum.
Scaph. = Scaphognathite.
Seg. 3-5 = Abdominal Segments 3 to 5.
Tel. = Telson.