

## Diversity and ecological features of symbiotic communities associated with large hermit crabs along the southern part of the Russian coast of the Sea of Japan

### Разнообразие и экологические особенности симбиотических сообществ, ассоциированных с раками-отшельниками вдоль южной части российского побережья Японского моря

Ivan N. Marin<sup>1</sup>, Sergey Yu. Sinelnikov<sup>1,2</sup>  
И.Н. Марин<sup>1</sup>, С.Ю. Синельников<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A.N. Severtzov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of RAS, Leninsky prosp. 33, Moscow, 117071, Russia. E-mail: coralliodecapoda@mail.ru (corresponding author)

<sup>1</sup> Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский просп., 33, Москва, 119071, Россия.

<sup>2</sup> I.D.Papanin Institute for biology of inland waters of RAS, Borok, Nekouzsky region, Yaroslavl oblast, 152742 Russia. E-mail: sinelnikovff@yandex.ru

<sup>2</sup> Институт биологии внутренних вод им. И.Д. Папанина РАН, п. Борок, Некоузский р-н, Ярославская обл., 152742 Россия.

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**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** Симбиоз, сообщества, ассоциации, Decapoda, Paguroidea, Amphipoda, Polychaeta, раки-отшельники, экологические ниши, конкуренция, локализация, Японское море.

**ABSTRACT.** The paper presents a preliminary description of several most typical symbiotic communities formed in association with large subtidal hermit crabs in the Russian waters of the Sea of Japan. The annotated list of macrosymbionts found on hermit-crabs is presented. Localization on the host and possible competitive relationships with other symbionts are described for the number of model species of macrosymbionts.

**РЕЗЮМЕ.** В работе приведены предварительные данные исследования симбиотических сообществ, ассоциированных с крупными сублитторальными раками-отшельниками в российских водах Японского моря. Описано несколько типов наиболее характерных симбиотических сообществ. Представлен аннотированный список видов макросимбионтов, обнаруженных на раках-отшельниках. Для ряда модельных видов макросимбионтов отдельно рассмотрена локализация на хозяине и возможные конкурентные взаимоотношения с другими симбионтами.

### Introduction

Representatives of the superfamily Paguroidea (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura), or hermit crabs, are a group of decapod crustaceans with soft asymmetrical abdomen usually hidden in shells of gastropod mollusks (gastropods), sponges or wreck of a sunken tree. This group of crustaceans is very diverse and wide-

spread in the World Ocean from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the coastline to bathyal depths with more than 1500 species of hermit crabs have been currently described; there is even one family of hermit crabs, Coenobitidae, living on the land [Markham, 2010; McLaughlin et al., 2010]. Using foreign objects to protect their body and constantly moving along the seabed, hermit crabs unwittingly create an ideal environment for other marine animals populating their “house” both inside and outside of the shell. Such groups of associated species form symbiotic communities often including more than 10–20 species on the same host. There are more than 2000 known symbiotic species of marine invertebrates permanently or temporarily associated with hermit crabs [Williams, 1995; Williams, McDermott, 2004; Markham, 2010; McDermott et al., 2010].

Among the symbionts of hermit crabs nearly all major taxa of marine animals have been observed — from microscopic protozoa to large polychaetes whose length can exceed the length of the host [McDermott, 2001; Williams, McDermott, 2004; McDermott et al., 2010]. The most diverse group associated with hermit crabs are crustaceans (Arthropoda: Crustacea), including small amphipods (Amphipoda). Amphipods are often involved into a symbiotic relationship with hermit crabs and related lithodids (king crabs) combined into the superfamily Paguroidea [Reiss et al., 2003; Williams, McDermott, 2004; Butler, Butler, 2012, 2013]. Currently 6 families of Amphipoda, Amphiloichidae [Myers, 1974], Liljeborgiidae [Taylor, 1979; Cuadras,

Pereira, 1977], Stenothoidae [McGrath, 1978; Marin, Sinelnikov, 2012], Photidae [Reiss et al., 2003], Ischyroceridae [Williams, McDermott, 2004; Dvoretzky, Britayev, 2009] and Pleustidae [Marin et al., 2013], involving into a symbiotic relationships with hermit crabs, are discovered among more than 100 known amphipod families. However, in our view, this list is by far to be complete, since hermit crabs symbionts are often lost during the collection. Environmental aspects of the relationship of symbiotic amphipods and their hosts also often remain unstudied. Nevertheless, the role of symbiotic community is very important and often even plays a key role during the life of the host [Glynn, 1983a, b, 1987; Glynn, Krupp, 1986; Stimpson, 1990].

About 40 species of hermit crabs from 3 families, Paguridae, Diogenidae, and Parapaguridae, are presently included in the list of the Russian fauna; most of species are known from the Far-Eastern seas of Russia [Makarov, 1938; Vinogradov, 1950; Marin et al., 2011, 2012; Marin, 2013; Marin, Kornienko, 2014]. The greatest diversity of hermit crabs among the seas of Russia are recorded in the Sea of Japan (over 30 species), which is generally characterized by the most rich fauna among Russian seas [Anosov et al., 2014]. Being relatively large mobile organisms, hermit crabs create a favorable environment for the formation of symbiotic communities in the Sea of Japan [Williams, McDermott, 2004]. In 2012, inside shells and sponges occupied by hermit crabs *Pagurus pectinatus* (Stimpson, 1858), *P. parvispina* Komai, 1997 and *Elassochirus cavimanus* (Miers, 1879) (Paguridae) in the Sea of Japan, a new species of symbiotic amphipod *Metopelloides paguri* Marin et Sinelnikov, 2012 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Stenothoidae) was discovered [Marin, Sinelnikov, 2012]. This finding became the second discovery of symbiotic amphipods living inside the shell of hermit crabs in the fauna of Russia [Gurjanova, 1938; Marin, Sinelnikov, 2012]. Later, during an integrated investigation of hermit crab associates in Vostok Bay of the Sea of Japan, two symbiotic species of amphipods, *Sympleustes japonicus* (Gurjanova, 1938) (Pleustidae) and *Ischyrocerus commensalis* Chevreux, 1900 (Ischyroceridae) [Marin et al., 2013] as well as polychaete *Cheilonereis cyclurus* (Harrington, 1897) (Polychaeta: Errantia: Nereididae) living inside the shell occupied by hermit crabs, and parasitic isopod *Pseudione giardi* Caiman, 1898 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Bopyridae) attaching to the abdomen of hermit crabs, were also recorded [Marin, unpublished]. One of amphipod species, *I. commensalis*, is also known as a symbiont of Far-Eastern lithodid crabs (Crustacea: Decapoda: Lithodidae) related to hermit crabs and for a newly introduced king crab (*Paralithodes camtschaticus* (Tilesius, 1815) (Lithodidae)) population in the Barents Sea [Gurjanova, 1951; Dvoretzky, Britayev, 2009; Butler, Butler, 2012; Dvoretzky, Dvoretzky, 2013]. Unfortunately, details of relationships with the host are still unknown for the majority of hermit crab associated symbionts.

This paper presents data on the species composition of macrosymbionts of large and common species

of hermit crabs in the Russian coastal zone of the Sea of Japan, their localization on the host and possible competitive interactions between different symbiotic species. Ecological feature, localization and occurrence in different types of symbiotic communities of 5 species of macrosymbionts, namely amphipods *M. paguri*, *S. japonicus*, *I. commensalis*, bopyrid isopods *P. giardi* and polychaetes *C. cyclurus*, are presented. Also in this paper we argue that associated symbiotic community is very important to the life of hermit crabs.

## Materials and methods

The study of hermit crabs was conducted in the offshore area in South Primorye (north-western coast of the Japanese sea from Cape Povorotnyi (42°40'38"N 133°02'33"E) to the southern border of Posjeta Bay, the Tumannaya River (Tumangan) (42°17'37"N 130°42'02"E), mainly in the Vostok and Posjeta Bays of the Sea of Japan in summer season of 2012–2014 years. To explore the regional diversity of hermit crabs we used all possible types of sampling from the littoral zone to sublittoral trawling (deep to 220 m). Collections of Institute of Marine Biology (IMB FEB RAS, Vladivostok), Zoological Institute of RAS (ZIN RAS, St. Petersburg), Zoological Museum of Moscow State University (Moscow) and personal author's collections from the region were processed for additional material on hermit crab associates. During field sampling symbiotic animals were washed from several large species of hermit crabs such as *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 (Fig. 1b), *Pagurus middendorffii* Brandt, 1851 (Fig. 5h), *P. pectinatus* (Stimpson, 1858) (Fig. 1b–d), *P. brachiomastus* (Thallwitz, 1892), *P. parvispina* Komai, 1997 (Fig. 1e), *P. gracilipes* (Stimpson, 1858) (Fig. 5b), and *Discorsopagurus maclaughlinae* Komai, 1995 (Paguridae) (Fig. 5e) most common in subtidal waters of the Sea of Japan. Washouts were conducted through the fine gauze using 5% solution of ethyl alcohol (ethanol) and a weak solution of clove oil. For complete studying of associated fauna washouts from 38 individuals of *P. ochotensis*, 22 individuals of *P. pectinatus* and 10 individuals of *P. brachiomastus* collected with the help of SCUBA in shallow waters (5–30 m) of Vostok Bay and Furuhelma Island, and 35 individuals of *P. pectinatus* and 18 specimens of *P. parvispina* collected by fishing trawls at depths of 40–80 m in the Vostok Bay were examined. Shallow water hermit crabs were collected underwater in individual plastic bags to prevent loss of the symbionts, and then examined in the laboratory as described above. In parallel underwater observation of symbionts localizations was conducted accompanied with underwater photographing *in situ*. During the extraction process localization of all symbionts was also noted. Photos of amphipods and other symbionts were made in the laboratory using the camera attached to Olympus stereo microscope.

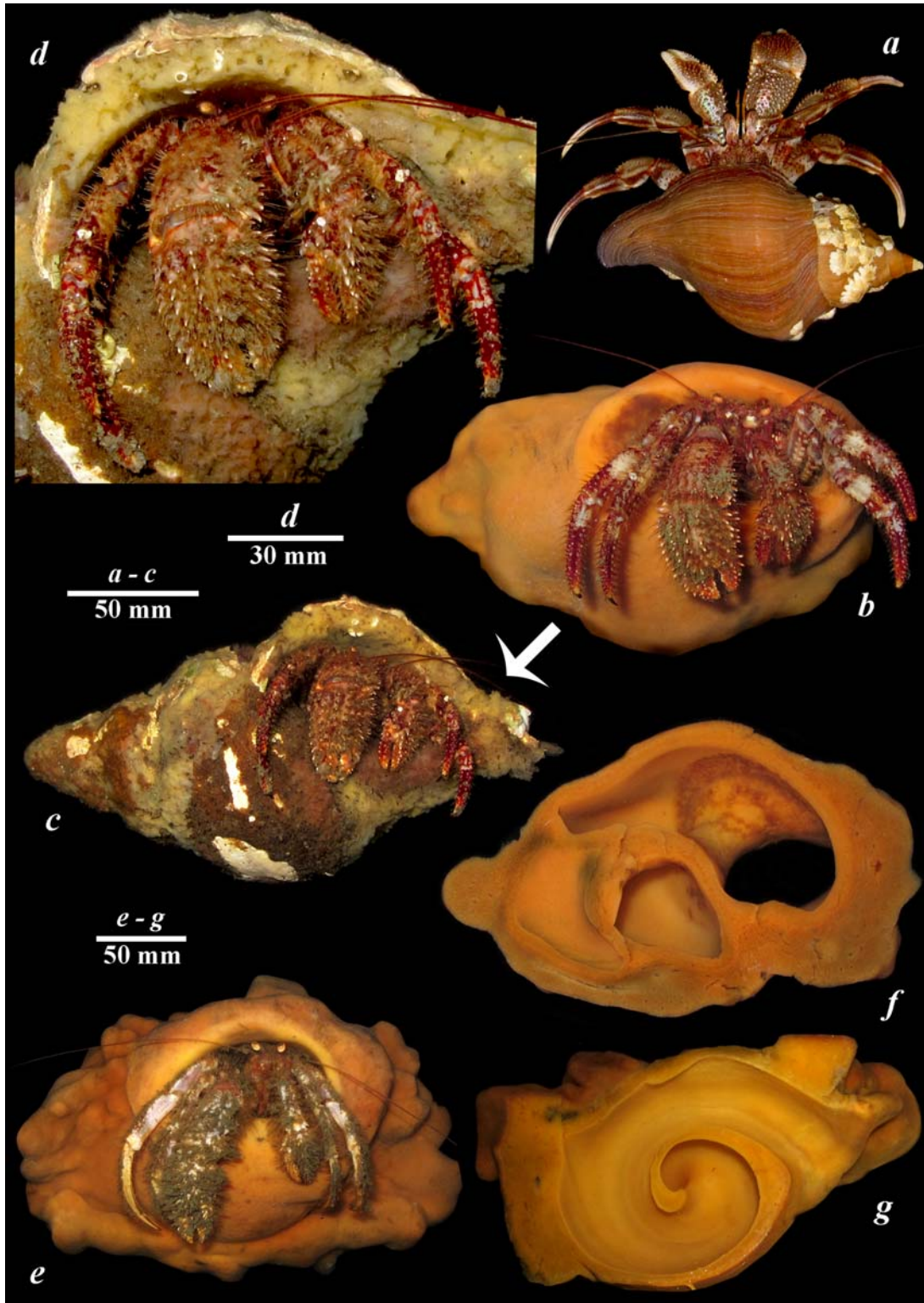


Fig. 1. *a* — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 in the shell of gastropod *Neptunea* sp., Vostok Bay, depth 5 m; *b* — *Pagurus pectinatus* (Stimpson, 1858) in sponge *Suberites* sp., Vostok Bay, depth 40–50 m; *c* — the same shell purified from the sponge; *d* — the same shell, the mouth of shell, partially dissolved by sponge; *e* — *Pagurus parvispina* Komai, 1997 in sponge *Suberites* sp., depth 50–80 m; *f*, *g* — canal inside sponge *Suberites* sp. occupied by hermit crab.

Рис. 1. *a* — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 в раковине гастроподы *Neptunea* sp., зал. Восток, 5 м; *b* — *Pagurus pectinatus* (Stimpson, 1858) в губке *Suberites* sp., зал. Восток, 40–50 м; *c* — тот же экземпляр с очищенной от губки раковинной; *d* — тот же экземпляр, устье раковины, разъеденное губкой; *e* — *Pagurus parvispina* Komai, 1997 в губке *Suberites* sp. 50–80 м; *f*, *g* — канал, в котором обитает раки-отшельники, внутри губки *Suberites* sp.

Table 1. Macrosymbionts observed in associations with hermit crabs in the Sea of Japan. The underlined species were selected as models for further ecological researches.

Таблица 1. Макросимбионты, обнаруженные в ассоциациях с раками-отшельниками в Японском море. Подчеркнуты те виды, для которых представлены исследования по экологии.

Species of symbiont	Taxonomy	Host and localization
<i>Suberites domuncula</i> (Olivi, 1792) (Fig. 1b, e–g)	Porifera: Demospongiae: Suberitidae	Settling on the surface of the shell, occupied by hermit crab, and later, after dissolution of the shell, repeating the inner shape of the shell became the main substrate for hermit crab occupation. Usually occupied by <i>P. pectinatus</i> , <i>P. parvispina</i> and <i>P. brachiomastus</i> , rarely by <i>P. ochotensis</i> .
Unidentified turbellarian (possibly, representative of the genus <i>Stylochus</i> Ehrenberg, 1831))	Platyhelminthes: Polycladida	Lives inside the shell occupied by hermit crabs, usually, in the recent turnover at the base of the columella. It occurs in almost all shells occupied by large specimens of <i>P. ochotensis</i> , <i>P. pectinatus</i> and <i>P. brachiomastus</i>
Colonial hydroids ( <i>Hydractinia echinata</i> (Fleming, 1828) or <i>Schuchertinia milleri</i> (Torrey, 1902)) (Figs. 4a, g, 5h)	Cnidaria: Hydrozoa: Hydractiniidae	Settling on the surface of the shell, occupied by hermit crab, and later, after dissolution of the shell, repeating the inner shape of the shell became the main substrate for hermit crab occupation. Observed in associations with <i>P. middendorffii</i> , <i>P. ochotensis</i> and <i>Labidochirus anomalus</i> (Balss, 1913)
Gastropods <i>Crepidula</i> sp	Mollusca: Gastropoda: Calyptraeidae	Lives inside on the inner surface of shells occupied by hermit crabs, usually close to the shell mouth. Occurs in almost all shells occupied by large specimens of <i>P. ochotensis</i> , <i>P. pectinatus</i> and <i>P. brachiomastus</i>
<i>Dipolydora commensalis</i> (Andrews, 1891) (Fig. 4h)	Polychaeta: Sedentaria: Spionidae	On the surface of shells occupied by hermit crabs inhabiting a wide range of hosts (Williams, McDermott, 1997; Dualan, Williams, 2011)
Different polychaetes-spirorbids including <i>Bushiella</i> sp. and <i>Circeis armoricana</i> Saint-Joseph, 1894 (Fig. 4k)	Polychaeta: Sedentaria: Spirorbidae	On the surface of shells occupied by different hermit crabs and carapace of hermit crab <i>P. ochotensis</i>
<u><i>Cheilonereis cyclurus</i> (Harrington, 1897)</u> (Fig. 4i)	Polychaeta: Errantia: Nereididae	Lives inside the shell occupied by the hermit crabs in the last turnover of the shell behind the body of the host crab. Probably feeds on the faeces of the host. Found in shells occupied by large specimens of <i>P. ochotensis</i> , <i>P. pectinatus</i> and <i>P. brachiomastus</i>
<i>Peltogaster boschmai</i> Reinhard, 1944 (Fig. 5f, g)	Crustacea: Cirripedia: Rhizocephala: Peltogastridae	Single individuals of parasite were found attached to the abdomen of <i>Discorsopagurus maclaughlinae</i> Komai, 1995
<i>Peltogasterella gracilis</i> (Boschma, 1927) (Fig. 5a, b)	Crustacea: Cirripedia: Rhizocephala: Peltogastridae	Clumps of parasites (colonial form) were found attached to the abdomen of <i>P. ochotensis</i> , <i>P. pectinatus</i> , <i>Pagurus gracilipes</i> (Stimpson, 1858)
Barnacles <i>Balanus</i> spp. (Fig. 4g)	Crustacea: Cirripedia: Balanidae	Numerous representatives of the genus <i>Balanus</i> Costa, 1778 were found on the surface of shells of almost all species of hermit crabs found in the region. The current species were not identified as we suggest them as non-specific settling animals, covered any solid substrate
<u><i>Pseudione giardi</i> Caiman, 1898</u> (Fig. 4b, e)	Crustacea: Isopoda: Bopyridae	Attached to the abdomen of <i>P. ochotensis</i>
<u><i>Sympleustes japonicus</i> (Gurjanova, 1938)</u> (Fig. 3e)	Crustacea: Amphipoda: Pleustidae	Lives on the surface (inner of outer) close to the mouth of the shell or sponge occupied by hermit crabs, juveniles of amphipods were found inside osculum of sponge. For host specificity see Tables 2, 3
<u><i>Ischyrocerus commensalis</i> Chevreux, 1900</u> (Fig. 3b)	Crustacea: Amphipoda: Ischyroceridae	Usually adult and juveniles specimens of the species were found on appendages of host. For host specificity see Tables 2, 3
<u><i>Metopelloides paguri</i> Marin &amp; Sinelnikov, 2012</u> (Fig. 3g)	Crustacea: Amphipoda: Stenothoidae	Lives inside the shell occupied by hermit crab, usually in the cavity behind the body of the host. Probably feeds on the faeces of the host. For host specificity see Tables 2, 3

\* It is known that *Pagurus middendorffii* is the intermediate host for two species of acanthocephalan, *Polymorphus arcticus* (Van Cleave, 1920) and *P. pupa* (Linstow, 1905) (Acanthocephala: Palaeacanthocephala: Polymorphida: Polymorphidae), the main hosts of which are representatives of the Pacific population of common eider *Somateria mollissima* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Vertebrata: Aves: Anatidae) (Khokhlova 1986, Atrashkevich 2008). However, in our study any internal parasites of hermit crabs were not been studied.

Table 2. The occurrence of model species macrosymbionts in different communities associated with hermit crabs.  
Таблица 2. Присутствие модельных видов макросимбионтов в различных сообществах, ассоциированных с раками-отшельниками.

Host species	The species of macrosymbiont				
	<i>M. paguri</i>	<i>S. japonicus</i>	<i>I. commensalis</i>	<i>P. giardi</i>	<i>C. cyclurus</i>
Gastropod shell					
<i>P. ochotensis</i> (0–5 m)	–	+	–	+	+
<i>E. cavimanus</i> (40–60 m) (collections)	+	+	+	–	–
<i>P. parvispina</i> (40–60 m)	+	+	+	–	–
<i>P. pectinatus</i> (40–60 m)	+	+	+	–	–
<i>P. brachiomastus</i> (5–30 m)	–	+	–	+	+
Sponge <i>Suberites</i>					
<i>P. pectinatus</i> (40–60 m)	+	+	+	–	–
<i>P. parvispina</i> (40–60 m)	+	+	+	–	–
<i>Hydractinia</i>					
<i>P. ochotensis</i> (5–30 m)	–	+	–	+	+

## Results

### *Diversity of macrosymbionts associated with hermit crabs*

On the surface and inside the shells occupied by hermit crab as well as on the body of hermit crabs we found and identified 14 species of large marine invertebrates (Table 1). Most of collected animals are specific symbionts of hermit crabs in general possessing low level of the specialization to particular host species.

Five model species of macrosymbionts were selected for ecological study, including 3 species of amphipods (*M. paguri*, *S. japonicus*, *I. commensalis*), polychaete *C. cyclurus* and parasitic bopyrid isopod *P. giardi* (Table 1).

### *Types of communities of macrosymbionts found on hermit crabs*

Three different symbiotic communities formed on the basis of the substrate forming “house” occupied by hermit crab were observed: (1) gastropod shells (Fig. 1a); (2) sponges of the genus *Suberites* Nardo, 1833 (identified as *Suberites domuncula* (Olivi, 1792) (Porifera: Demospongiae: Suberitidae) (Fig. 1b, e)); and (3) colonies (cenosarc) of *Hydractinia* (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa: Hydractiniidae) (*Hydractinia echinata* (Fleming, 1828) or *Schuchertinia milleri* (Torrey, 1902), both hydractinians species are known as symbionts of hermit crabs in the Arctic and North Pacific Ocean) (Figs. 4a, 5h).

1) Gastropod shells were populated by almost all species of collected hermit crabs; only *D. maclaughlinae* usually lives inside tubes of serpulid polychaetes [see Marin et al., 2012]. In association with hermit crabs living in gastropod shells all macrosymbionts were noted (Table 1). At the same time, the shell is usually populated by specific ectosymbionts like sponges *Suberites* and hydroids *Hydractinia* which eventually

overgrow it (Figs. 1b, 4a) and lately completely dissolve (replace) the shell (Fig. 1c, d). Nevertheless, the inner channel of sponges or hydractinian cenosarc replacing the shell completely resembles a helix of gastropod shell (Fig. 1f, g) allowing hermit crab to continue living inside comfortably. In any case, juveniles of hermit crabs primarily occupy only gastropod shells.

2) Sponge *Suberites* are usually inhabited by large specimens of hermit crabs *P. ochotensis*, *P. pectinatus* and *P. parvispina* (Figs. 1b, e, 2a, h, i). Most frequently hermit crab inhabiting sponges were found at the depths greater than 30 m, which primarily can be explained by the rapid leaching of calcium from the gastropod shells at such depths, its dissolution and easily replacement of the shell with a sponge tissue. At lower depths, apparently, hermit crabs prefer living in gastropod shells and replace them during the lifetime. At the depths greater than 70 m, hermit crabs were found only in sponges, which we attribute to a very rapid dissolution of shells at this depth, as well as fewer opportunities hermit crab to find suitable shells. At the same time, juveniles and small specimens hermit crabs were never observed inside sponges. Some of macrosymbionts such as bopyrid *P. giardi* and polychaetes *C. cyclurus* (Tab. 2) were never observed within symbiotic communities associated with hermit crabs living inside sponges, possibly, because of sponge toxicity.

3) Cenosarc of *Hydractinia*. Usually *Pagurus ochotensis* (Fig. 4a), *P. middendorffii* (Fig. 5h) and *Labidochirus anomalus* (Balss, 1913) living in shallow waters not deeper than 25–30 m we found occupying hydractinian cenosarcs. Hydractinian larvae similar to sponges (see above) first settle on the surface of the gastropod shell occupied by hermit crab and eventually overgrown it completely. Further, under the action of the active substances secreted by hydroid the shell is dissolved completely and hermit crab remains in cenosarc which has an internal cavity follows the helix of the shell. It is known that the association of *Hydractinia* and hermit crabs has a mutualistic character as *Hydractinia* gets mobility while hermit became protected

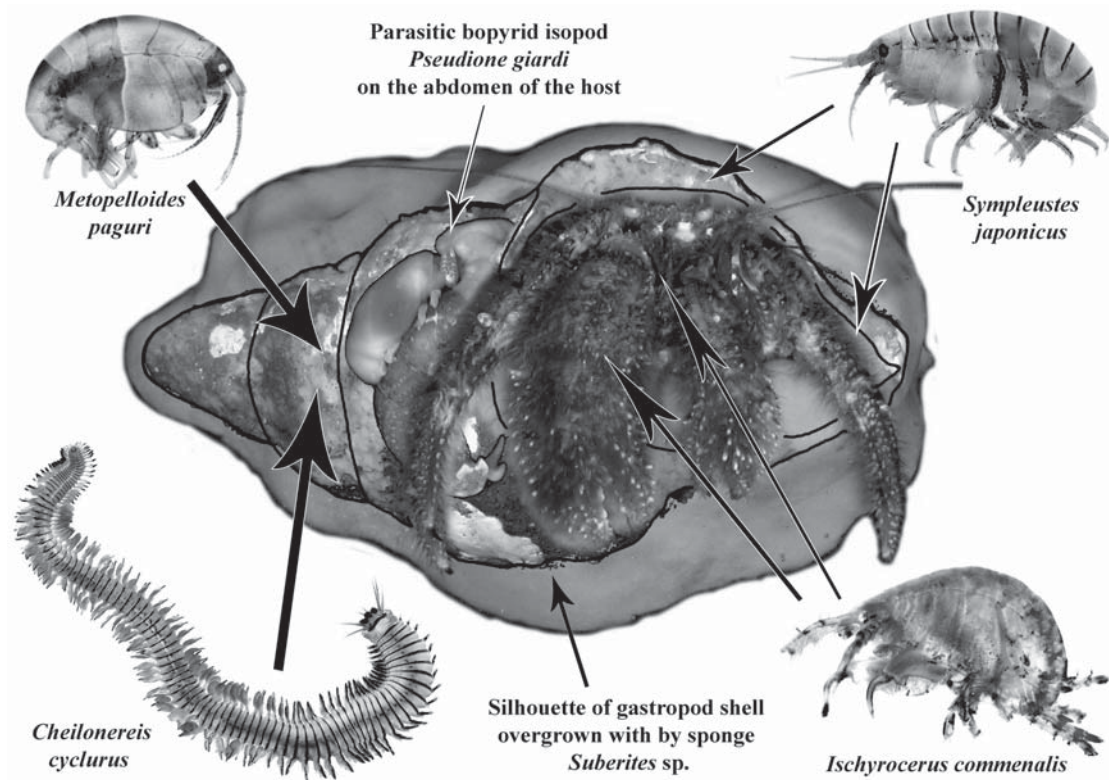


Fig. 2. Schematic representation of the localization of model species of macrosymbionts on the hermit crab (the host) and occupying shell or sponge

Рис. 2. Схематическое изображение локализации модельных видов макро-симбионтов на раке-отшельнике (хозяине) и занимаемой им раковине или губке

from larger predators such as lobsters and octopus by poisonous tentacles of hydractinian polyps [Jensen, 1970; Brooks, Mariscal, 1985a, b; Brooks, Gwaltney, 1993; Buckley, Ebersole, 1994; Weissberger, 1995; Fernandez-Leborans, 2001]. In the Russian fauna one species of deep-water hermit crab *Parapagurus benedicti* de Saint Laurent, 1972 (= *Parapagurus pilosimanus benedicti* de Saint Laurent, 1972) inhabiting the depths of 1000–4000 m is found exclusively living inside cenosarc of hydractinian polyps [Marin, 2013] as at such depth the calcium-based gastropod shell extremely hard to find and they quickly dissolve in sea water.

Apparently, the substrate occupied by hermit crab plays an important role for the associated community of macrosymbionts as each of indicated substrates is inhabited by the certain complex species as well as selected model species of symbionts also have some preferences with the species of host hermit crab (specificity) and the depth of host dwelling (Table 2). For example, the community associated with hermit crab living inside sponges never includes barnacles, polychaete *C. cyclurus* and parasites *P. giardi* that we attribute to the toxicity of sponges for these animals and their larvae as well as the most numerous populations of symbiotic amphipods were found on deeper dwelling hosts.

#### Localization of symbiotic amphipods

Among studied species, symbiotic amphipods *S. japonicus* were found in associations with all the collected hosts and depths while other symbiotic amphipod species showed some specificity (Table 1). Specimens of *S. japonicus* were found on outer surface of the shell/sponge and appendages of all species of examined hermit crab without any preferences to the depth of host dwelling [Marin et al, 2013] (Tables 2, 3); it was also observed that they can actively swim in the water column, sometimes for significant distances. This may explain their previous records on substrates not associated with hermit crabs such as grass and algae [Gurjanova, 1938]. At the same time, amphipods *M. paguri* and *I. commensalis* were found dwelling only on such species of hermit crabs as *P. pectinatus* and *P. parvispinna* living in the sponge *S. domuncula* at depths greater than 30 m (Table 3), and deep water dwelling *E. cavimanus* found in the museum collections [see Marin, Sinelnikov, 2012].

Our study indicates that there are three different types of host occupation specific for these amphipod species (Fig. 2). Thus, adults and juveniles of *I. commensalis* prefers to live at the base of the first pereopod (claws) and feeding appendages of hermit crabs; single immature specimen of this species was found on

Table 3. The extensiveness of colonization of the host (occurrence) of macro symbionts associated with hermit crabs in the Vostok and Posjeta Bays of the Sea of Japan.  
Таблица 3. Экстенсивность колонизации хозяина макросимбионтами, ассоциированными с раки-отшельниками на заливах Восток и Посъета Японского моря.

Host species	<i>M. paguri</i>	<i>S. japonicus</i>	<i>I. commensalis</i>	<i>C. cyclurus</i>	<i>P. giardi</i>
<i>Pagurus ochotensis</i> (hydractinian cenosarc, depth 5 m)	0%	50%	0%	50%	30%
<i>Pagurus brachiomastus</i> (gastropod shell, depth 5–30 m)	0%	20%	0%	10%	30%
<i>Pagurus brachiomastus</i> (sponge <i>Suberites</i> , depth 40–60 m)	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%

Table 4. The co-occurrence of macrosymbionts found on hermit crabs in Vostok and Posjeta Bays of the Sea of Japan.  
Таблица 4. Совместное обитание макросимбионтов на раках-отшельниках в заливах Восток и Посъета Японского моря.

	<i>M. paguri</i>	<i>S. japonicus</i>	<i>I. commensalis</i>	<i>C. cyclurus</i>	<i>P. giardi</i>
<i>M. paguri</i>		+	+	–	–
<i>S. japonicus</i>	+		+	+	+
<i>I. commensalis</i>	+	+		+	–
<i>C. cyclurus</i>	–	+	–		–
<i>P. giardi</i>	–	+	–	–	

the soft abdomen of the host. Single individuals of *M. paguri* were observed close to the mouth and base of walking appendages of the host while most of specimens of this species (adults and juveniles) were found inside the entire length of the channel of shell/sponge occupied by the host [see Marin, Sinelnikov, 2012]. Amphipods *S. japonicus* were found on the outer surface of the sponge, the outer edge of the mouth of shell, and walking appendages of hermit crabs; juveniles usually live in the irrigation system and surface osculum of sponges (Fig. 3*h, i*) [Marin et al., 2013]. For larger host hermit crabs occupying a larger sponge greater number of specimens of *S. japonicus* and *I. commensalis* were recorded that is also typical for the majority of symbiotic communities [Sokolova, Marin, 2014].

#### Possible interspecific relationships of model species macrosymbionts

Co-occurrence of macrosymbionts (Table 4) indicates the absence of competition between symbiotic amphipods; their distribution and localization show a clear divergence of ecological niches on the body of the host (Fig. 2). However, co-occurrence of amphipods with other symbionts demonstrate a regular pattern. Thus, the greatest number of amphipods (all species) was found in associations with deeper water sponge dwelling hermit crabs while no parasitic isopods *P. giardi* and large associated polychaetes *C. cyclurus* were found there. In association with shallow water dwelling hermit crabs symbiotic polychaete *C. cyclurus* were never found together with parasitic bopyrid *P. giardi* and infaunal amphipod *M. paguri* while co-occurrence with epifaunal *S. japonicus* and *I. commensalis* was noted in rare cases. Based

on these data and biology of polychaetes *C. cyclurus*, which are active predators [Hickok, Davenport, 1957] it is possible to conclude that polychaetes are able to prey on amphipods and parasiting isopods (or their larvae) in the internal cavity of the shell/sponge and possibly on the surface of the shell/sponge (cleaning). Also, amphipods being omnivorous predators abundantly living on their deep dwelling hosts are possibly able to clean their hosts from parasitic isopods too. At the same time, parasitic bopyrid isopods *P. giardi* were most common on shallow hermit crabs which for some reason missing symbiotic polychaetes and amphipods.

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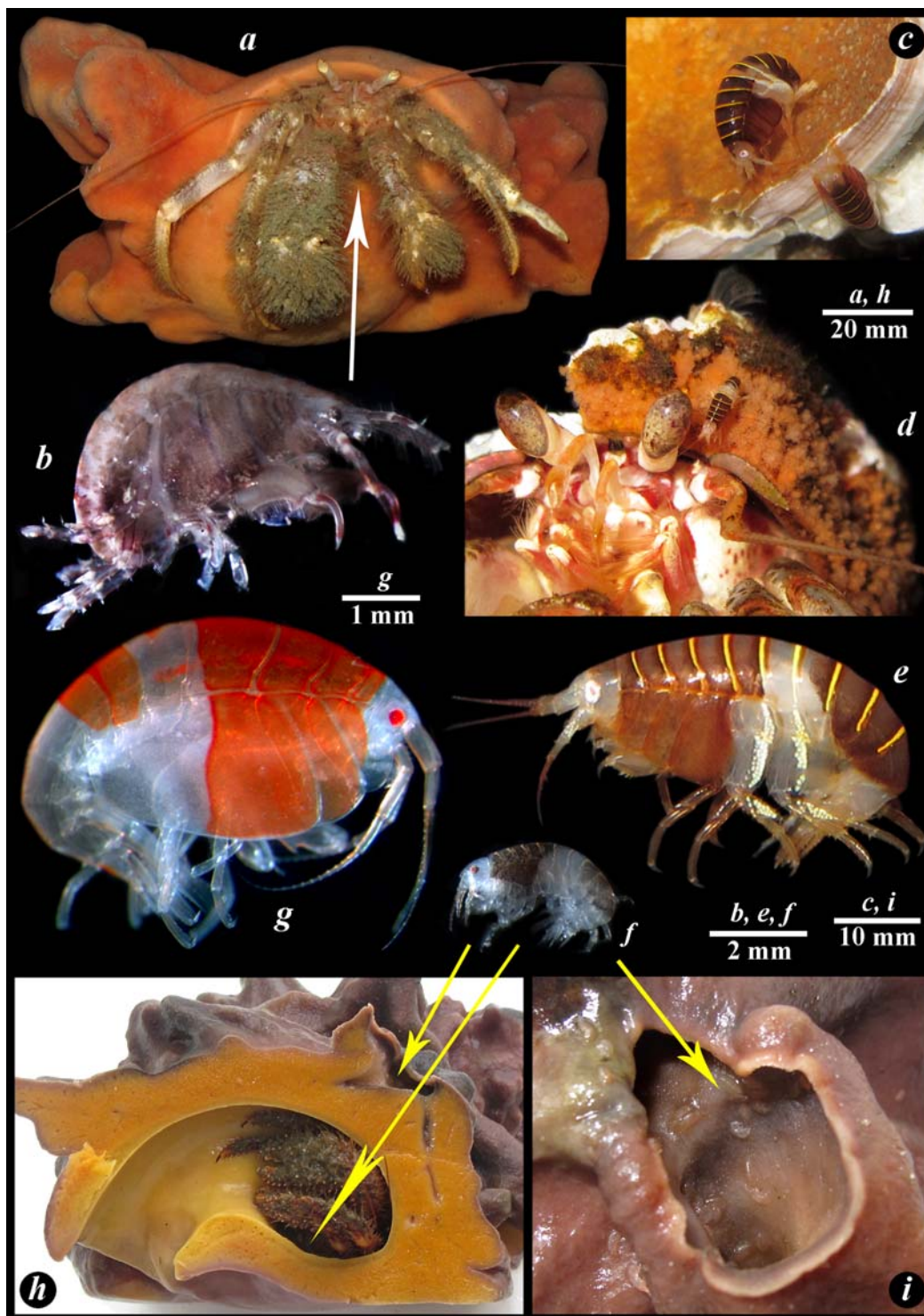


Fig. 3. *a* — *Pagurus parvispina* Komai, 1997 in sponge *Suberites* sp., depth 50–80 m; *b* — *Ischyrocerus commensalis* Chevreux, 1900 (white arrow indicates localization on the host); *c, d* — specimens of *Pleusymtes japonica* (Gurjanova, 1938) close to the mouth of the shell occupied by hermit crab; *e* — *Pleusymtes japonica*; *f* — juveniles of *P. japonica*; *g* — *Metopelloides paguri* Marin et Sinelnikov, 2012; *h* — section through the sponge *Suberites* sp. occupied by hermit crab; *i* — osculum of sponge *Suberites* sp. (yellow arrow indicates localization of juveniles of *P. japonica*).

Рис. 3. *a* — *Pagurus parvispina* Komai, 1997 в губке *Suberites* sp. 50–80 м; *b* — *Ischyrocerus commensalis* Chevreux, 1900 (белая стрелка показывает район встречи особей на раке-хозяине); *c, d* — особи *Pleusymtes japonica* (Gurjanova, 1938) на устье раковины, занятой раком-отшельником; *e* — *Pleusymtes japonica*; *f* — молодь *P. japonica*; *g* — *Metopelloides paguri* Marin et Sinelnikov, 2012; *h* — разрез губки *Suberites* sp. с раком-отшельником; *i* — оскулюм губки *Suberites* sp. (желтые стрелки показывают места находок молоди *P. japonica*).



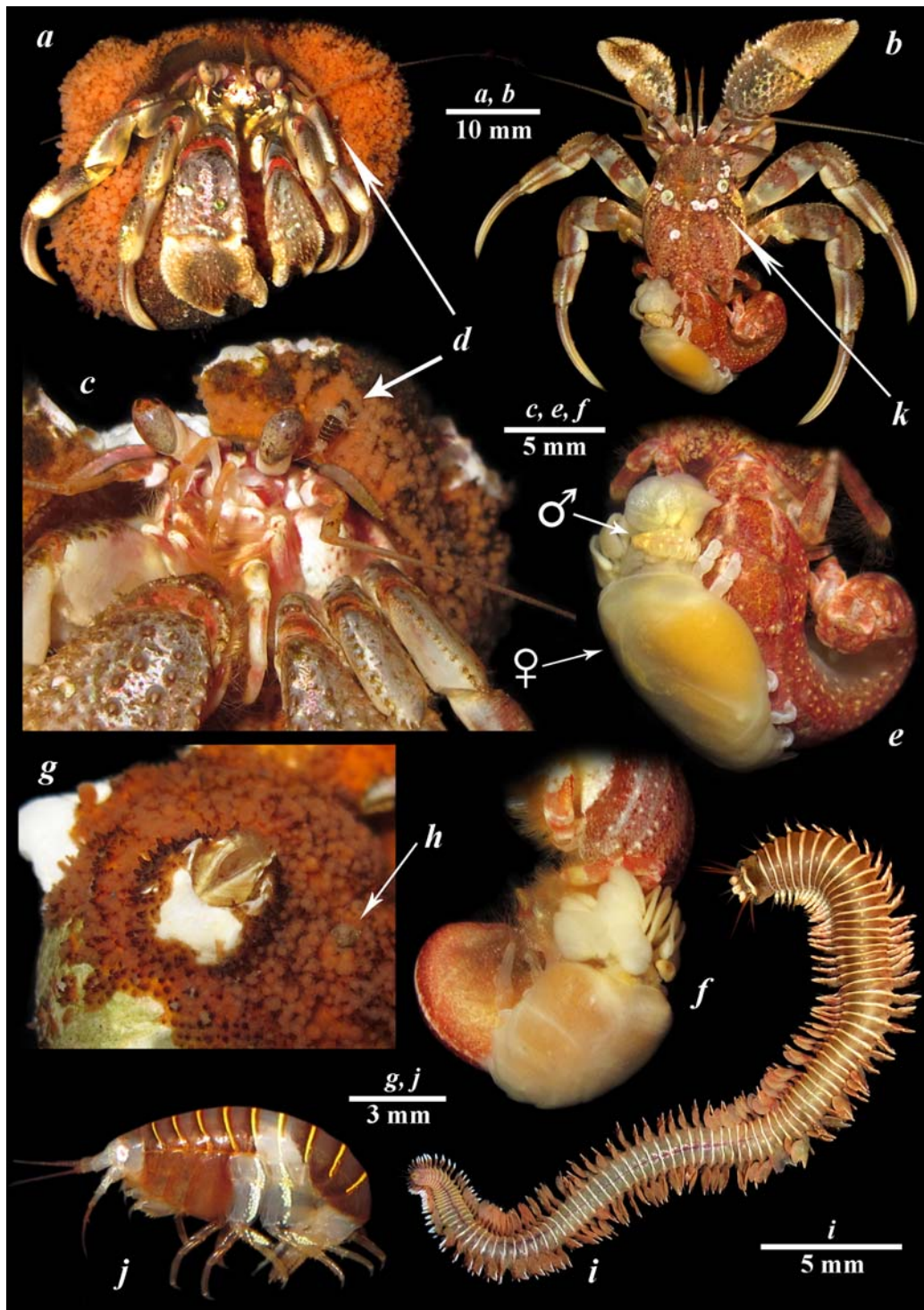


Fig. 4. a — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 in the shell overgrown by zooids of *Hydractinia*, Furuhelma Island, depth 3–5 m; b — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851; c — the same, hermit crab and the mouth of the shell; d, j — specimens of *Pleusymtes japonica* (Gurjanova, 1938); e, f — parasitic bopyrid isopod *Pseudione giardi* Caiman, 1898 on the abdomen of the host; g — barnacles *Balanus* sp. on the shell; h — polychaetes *Dipolydora commensalis* (Andrews, 1891); i — polychaete *Cheilonereis cyclurus* (Harrington, 1897); k — spirorbid polychaetes *Bushiella* sp. and *Circeis armoricana* Saint-Joseph, 1894.

Рис. 4. а — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 в раковине, обросшей зооидами *Hydractinia*, о-в Фуругельма, 3–5 м; б — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851, извлеченный из раковины; с — внешний вид устья раковины и рака-отшельника; d, j — половозрелая особь *Pleusymtes japonica* (Gurjanova, 1938); e, f — паразитический рак-бопирида *Pseudione giardi* Caiman, 1898 на абдомене рака-хозяина; g — усонгий рак *Balanus* sp. на раковине рака-отшельника; h — полихета *Dipolydora commensalis* (Andrews, 1891); i — полихета *Cheilonereis cyclurus* (Harrington, 1897); k — сидячие полихеты-спирорбиды *Bushiella* sp. и *Circeis armoricana* Saint-Joseph, 1894.

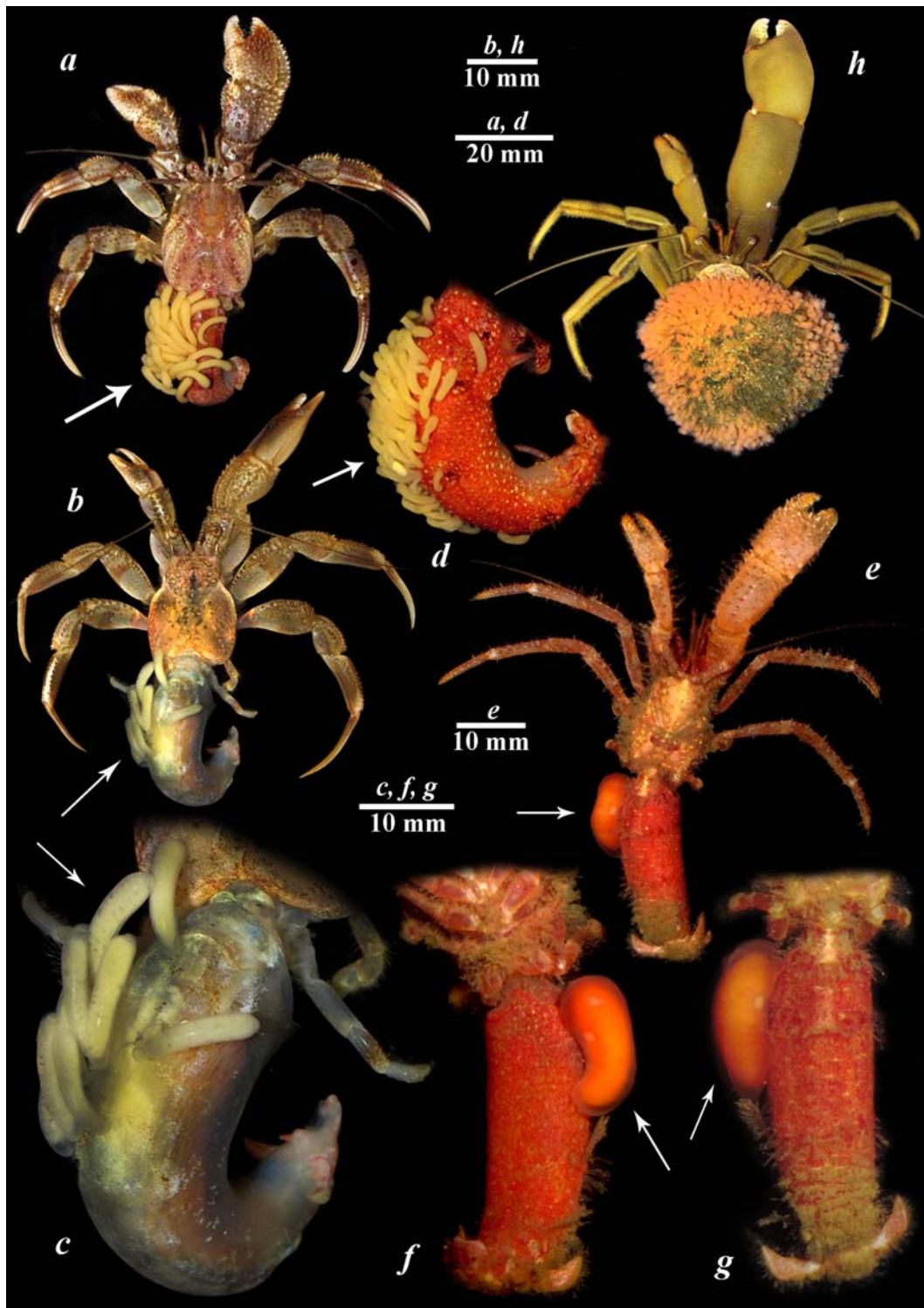


Fig. 5. a — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 with parasitic crustaceans *Peltogasterella gracilis* (Boschma, 1927) on the abdomen; b — *Pagurus gracilipes* (Stimpson, 1858) with *P. gracilis* on the abdomen; c — abdomen of *P. gracilipes* with parasites; d — abdomen of *Pagurus brachiomastus* (Thallwitz, 1892) with parasitic *P. gracilis*; e — *Discorsopagurus maclaughlinae* Komai, 1995 with parasitic crustacean *Peltogaster boschmai* Reinhard, 1944 on the abdomen; f, g — abdomen of *D. maclaughlinae* with parasite crustacean; h — *Pagurus middendorffii* Brandt, 1851 in the shell overgrown by zooids of *Hydractinia*, Vityaz Bay, depth 3–5 m.

Рис. 5. а — *Pagurus ochotensis* Brandt, 1851 с паразитическими ракообразными *Peltogasterella gracilis* (Boschma, 1927) на абдомене; б — *Pagurus gracilipes* (Stimpson, 1858) с паразитическими *P. gracilis* на абдомене; в — абдомен *P. gracilipes* с паразитами; д — абдомен *Pagurus brachiomastus* (Thallwitz, 1892) с паразитическими *P. gracilis*; е — *Discorsopagurus maclaughlinae* Komai, 1995 с паразитом *Peltogaster boschmai* Reinhard, 1944 на абдомене; ф, г — абдомен *D. maclaughlinae* с паразитом; h — *Pagurus middendorffii* Brandt, 1851 в раковине, обросшей зооидами *Hydractinia*, Витязь, 3–5 м.

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