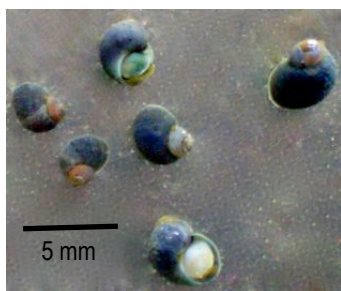


Two new species were found during club field trip to Marrowstone Island; one has recently been described
by George Holm



The beach at Marrowstone Point where the two species were collected.



Tricolia n. sp.

and one had eggs attached to its pleon. Curious to know the identity of such small ovigenous hermit crabs, he took them to Dr. Pat McLaughlin whom he visited a few days later.

A total of five specimens were collected by George, Nancy Elder and Linda Schroeder and following an initial microscopic examination the mood in the room soon turned to excitement. What she had anticipated merely to be a common inshore hermit crab species, instead turned out to be an undescribed species. It was fortuitous that Singapore club member, Dr. Ngan Kee Ng, was visiting at the same time. She and Dr. McLaughlin agreed to collaborate on describing it.

The club's Juan de Fuca field trip was a couple of weeks later and George, with help from Shary Almasi and Bert Bartleson, collected a second sample of small hermit crabs at Whiskey Creek Beach. These proved to be juveniles of a species that was similar in appearance, and provided the comparative proof that Dr. McLaughlin needed to determine that the specimens from Marrowstone Point were indeed new to science.

The new species, *Pagurus holmi* Ng & McLaughlin, 2009, was published this September in the online journal **Zootaxa: A new hermit crab (Decapoda: Anomura: Paguridae) from the eastern North Pacific**, Ngan Kee Ng & Patsy A. McLaughlin.

The *Tricolia* will be described by Dr. Jim McLean in his upcoming book on Gastropods.

Note - The last species of hermit crab to be described from our coast, prior to this one, was *Pagurus hartae* (McLaughlin and Jensen, 1996). Gregory C. Jensen is with the University of Washington in Seattle, and some of our members met him on the beach at Port Washington Narrows in Bremerton during the club's field trip there this past June.

Whenever we are in the field collecting or just observing what is there, we feel fairly confident that we will be able to put names to what we come across. Finding something new then is cause for excitement, and so it was during our club's field trip to Marrowstone Point on Marrowstone Island in May of 2008. George Holm found a *Tricolia* that apparently was new for our area as well as a hermit crab that subsequently was recognized as a new species.

The small *Tricolia* George had found on a rock in the low tide zone were not *Tricolia pulloides* Carpenter, 1865, the only local species he should have encountered. Shells containing hermit crabs were not intended to be collected, so it was not until he was home, that he noticed that four shells contained hermit crabs. Two of those had come out of their shells



Pagurus holmi Ng & McLaughlin