

GLOSSARY OF THE COMMON AND NON-SCIENTIFIC  
NAMES USED IN THE WOODS HOLE REGION

Among non-scientific or "common" names of invertebrates, a relatively small number are truly vernacular, that is, firmly established in the speech of the region and generally known to natives. Some true vernacular names as "horseshoe crab" and "quohog" may actually be more stable than scientific names, and are quite specific. But other vernacular terms such as "rock crab" or "barnacle" lack precision because each applies to more than one species in the region, not distinguishable by the layman, or because even if only one species is indicated in a particular region, the same name is used for other species elsewhere. Many so-called common names are not vernacular, but may represent anglicized versions of scientific names --- thus we speak of "an ameba", "a hydra", "planarians", or "isopods"; such names are generally learned in school and are better known to the scientific than to the general public. They are useful, but not in referring to particular species. Then there are the sometimes barbarous renditions from scientific specific names, such as "Morton's egg cockle" for "Laevicardium mortonii". Names of this sort are characteristic among groups of animals widely studied by amateurs. In the case of birds and fishes, such names have become fairly well standardized. Among invertebrates, such are most commonly used for shell bearing molluscs, and since Abbott's "American Seashells" and similar works provide easy reference, we have included few names of this sort.

The use of synthetic "common" names does nothing to aid the beginning student and is to be discouraged in scientific writing. Likewise, the use of non-specific vernacular names, unless accompanied by the proper scientific name, can lead to great confusion in the literature and should especially be avoided by comparative physiologists and ecologists. Far better to use an "old" but unmistakable scientific name like Nassa obsoleta, Nereis limbata, or Mactra solidissima than a meaningless vernacular term such as "the clam", "the rock crab", or "the sand worm".

In the following glossary, we have attempted to include the common vernacular names characteristic of southern New England, as well as names which have been imported and have taken root among the Woods Hole scientific community. We make no claims of completeness, and would appreciate criticisms. For the great majority of invertebrates, there are no common names, vernacular or otherwise.

<u>"Common name"</u>	<u>Scientific approximation</u>	<u>"Common name"</u>	<u>Scientific approximation</u>
Acorn barnacles . . . . .	<u>Balanus</u> , <u>Chthamalus</u>	Calico-back	
Acorn worms . . . . .	Hemichordata	fiddler crabs . . . . .	<u>Uca pugilator</u>
Bamboo worms . . . . .	<u>Clymenella</u> , <u>Maldanidæ</u>	Channeled whelks	
Barnacles . . . . .	<u>Cirripedia</u> (shelled types)	. . . . .	<u>Busycon canaliculatum</u>
Beach fleas, hoppers . . . . .	Amphipoda	Cherrystone clams . . . . .	young <u>Mercenaria</u>
	(various species, esp.	Chitons . . . . .	<u>Polyplacophora</u> ( <u>Amphineura</u> )
	of family <u>Talitridæ</u> )	Clams . . . . .	Various <u>Bivalvia</u> ( <u>Mollusca</u> )
Bearded sponges . . . . .	<u>Microciona prolifera</u>		not including the generally
Big fiddler crabs . . . . .	<u>Uca minax</u>		recognized mussels, scallops,
Black fiddler crabs . . . . .	<u>Uca pugnax</u>		oysters, etc.
Black quohogs . . . . .	<u>Arctica islandica</u>	Clam worms . . . . .	<u>Nereis</u>
Blood clams . . . . .	<u>Anadara</u> (various species)	Columbus's crabs . . . . .	<u>Planes minutus</u>
Blood stars . . . . .	<u>Henricia sanguinolenta</u>	Comb jellies . . . . .	<u>Ctenophora</u>
Blood worms . . . . .	<u>Glycera</u>	Corals . . . . .	<u>Madreporaria</u> and some
Blue crabs . . . . .	<u>Callinectes sapidus</u>		other colonial <u>Anthozoa</u>
Boring sponges . . . . .	<u>Cliona</u> (several species)	Dead-man's fingers . . . . .	<u>Alcyonium carneum</u>
Bread sponges . . . . .	<u>Halichondria</u>	Dog whelks . . . . .	<u>Thais lapillus</u>
Brittle stars . . . . .	<u>Ophiuroidea</u>	Edible mussels . . . . .	<u>Mytilus edulis</u>
Broken back shrimp . . . . .	<u>Hippolyte</u>	Eel grass . . . . .	<u>Zostera</u>
Bubble shells . . . . .	<u>Haminoea</u> , etc.	Feather-duster worms . . . . .	<u>Sabellidae</u>

- Fiddler crabs . . . . . Uca (3 species)  
 Finger sponges . . . . . Haliclona oculata  
 Fish lice . . . . . Branchiura (Argulus)  
 Flatworms . . . . . Platyhelminthes  
 Goose barnacles . Lepas (several species)  
 Grass shrimp . . . . . Hippolyte  
 Green crabs . . . . . Carcinus maenas  
 Green sea urchins  
 . . . . . Strongylocentrotus drobachiensis  
 Gribbles . . . . . Limnoria  
 Gulf weed . . . . . Sargassum  
 Gulf weed crabs . . . . . Planes minutus  
 Hard-shelled clams . . . . . Mercenaria  
 Hermit crabs . . . . . Pagurus  
 Horse conchs . . . . . Busycon  
 Horsehair-snakes . . . . . Gordiacea  
 Horseshoe crabs . . . . . Limulus polyphemus  
 Horse mussels . . . . . Modiolus modiolus  
 Hydra-worms . . . . . young of Nicolea  
 Jack-knife clams . . . . . Siliqua, Tagelus  
 Jellyfishes . Hydromedusae, Scyphomedusae,  
 . . . . . Ctenophora  
 King crabs (British usage) . . . . . Limulus  
 Knobbed whelks . . . . . Busycon carica  
 Lady crabs . . . . . Ovalipes  
 Leathery tunicates . . . . . Styela  
 Leeches . . . . . Hirudinea  
 Little-necked clams . . . . . Mercenaria  
 Limpets . . . . . Acmaea testudinalis  
 Lion's mane (jellyfish) . . . . . Cyanea  
 Lobsters . . . . . Homarus  
 Long-finned squid . . . . . Loligo pealei  
 Long-necked clams . . . . . Mya arenaria  
 Lug worms . . . . . Arenicola (3 species)  
 Mantis shrimp . Hoplocarida or Stomatopoda  
 Mermaid's toenail . . . . . Anomia  
 Mites (marine) . . . . . Halacaridae  
 Moon shells  
 . . . . . Lunatia, Natica,  
 . . . . . Neverita, Polinices  
 Moss animals . . . . . Bryozoa (Entoprocta and  
 . . . . . Ectoprocta)  
 Mud crabs . . . . . Xanthidae  
 Mud shrimp . . . . . Callianassa, Upogebia  
 Mud snails . . . . . Nassarius obsoletus  
 Mussels . . . . . Mytilus, Modiolus  
 Nassa . . . . . Nassarius (several species)  
 Northern corals . . . . . Astrangia danae  
 Northern squid . . . . . Ilex illacebrosus  
 Opossum shrimp . . . . . Mysidacea  
 Oysters . . . . . Crassostrea  
 Oyster crabs . . . . . Pinnotheres  
 Oyster drills . . . . . Urosalpinx  
 Pea crabs . . . . . Pinnotheres  
 Periwinkles . . . . . Littorina (3 species)  
 Portuguese Man-of-War . . . . . Physalia  
 Prawns . . . . . Palaemonetes, etc.  
 Purple sea urchins . . . . . Arbacia punctulata  
 Quahogs, quohogs . . . . . Mercenaria  
 Rag worms . . . . . Nereis (several species)  
 Razor clams . . . . . Ensis  
 Red-jointed fiddler crabs . Uca minax  
 Red sponges . . . . . Microciona prolifera  
 Ribbed mussels . . . . . Modiolus demissus  
 Ribbon worms . . . . . Nemertea  
 Rock crabs . . . . . Cancer (2 species)  
 Rock slaters . . . . . Ligia  
 Sand crabs . . . . . Emerita talpoida  
 Sand dollars . . . . . Echinarachnius parma  
 Sand moles . . . . . Emerita talpoida  
 Sand shrimp . . . . . Crangon  
 Scale worms . Polynoidae, Sigalionidae  
 Scallops . . . . . Aequipecten, Pecten  
 Scud . . . . . various gammarid Amphipoda  
 Sea anemones . . . . . Actinaria  
 Sea clams . . . . . Spisula solidissima  
 Sea cucumbers . . . . . Holothuroidea  
 Sea egg . . . . . sea urchins especially  
 . . . . . Strongylocentrotus drobachiensis  
 Sea float . . . . . Velella mutica  
 Sea gooseberry . . . . . Pleurobrachia  
 Sea lettuce . . . . . Ulva  
 Sea mice . . . . . Aphroditidae  
 Sea peach . . . . . Boltenia, Styela  
 Sea pens . . . . . Pennatulacea  
 Sea pork . . . . . Amaroucium  
 Sea slugs . . . . . (mostly) Nudibranchia  
 Sea squirts . . . . . Ascidacea, Tunicata  
 Sea stars . . . . . Asteroidea  
 Sea urchins . . . . . (regular) Echinoidea  
 Sea walnut . . . . . Pleurobrachia  
 Shipworms . . . . . Teredo, Bankia  
 Short-finned squid . Ilex illacebrosus  
 Skeleton shrimp . . . . . Caprellidae  
 Soft corals . . . . . Alcyonium carneum,  
 . . . . . Alcyonaria  
 Soft-shelled clams . . . . . Mya arenaria  
 Soft-shelled crabs  
 . . . . . post-moult Callinectes sapidus  
 Spider crabs . . . . . Libinia (2 species),  
 . . . . . Pelica  
 Sponges . . . . . Porifera  
 Square-backed  
 fiddler crab . Sesarma reticulatum  
 Squid, common . . . . . Loligo pealei  
 Starfishes . . . . . Asteroidea  
 Stony or true coral . Astrangia danae,  
 . . . . . Madreporaria  
 Striped anemones . Haliplanella luciae  
 Sulfur sponges . . . . . Cliona  
 Summer squid . . . . . Ilex illacebrosus  
 Surf clams . . . . . Spisula solidissima  
 Tube-worms . . . . . various sedentary  
 . . . . . Polychaeta  
 Whale lice . . . . . Cyamidae (Caprellidae)  
 Whelks . . . . . Thais, Busycon  
 White shrimp . . . . . Callianassa stimpsoni  
 Winkles . . . . . Littorina (3 species)