

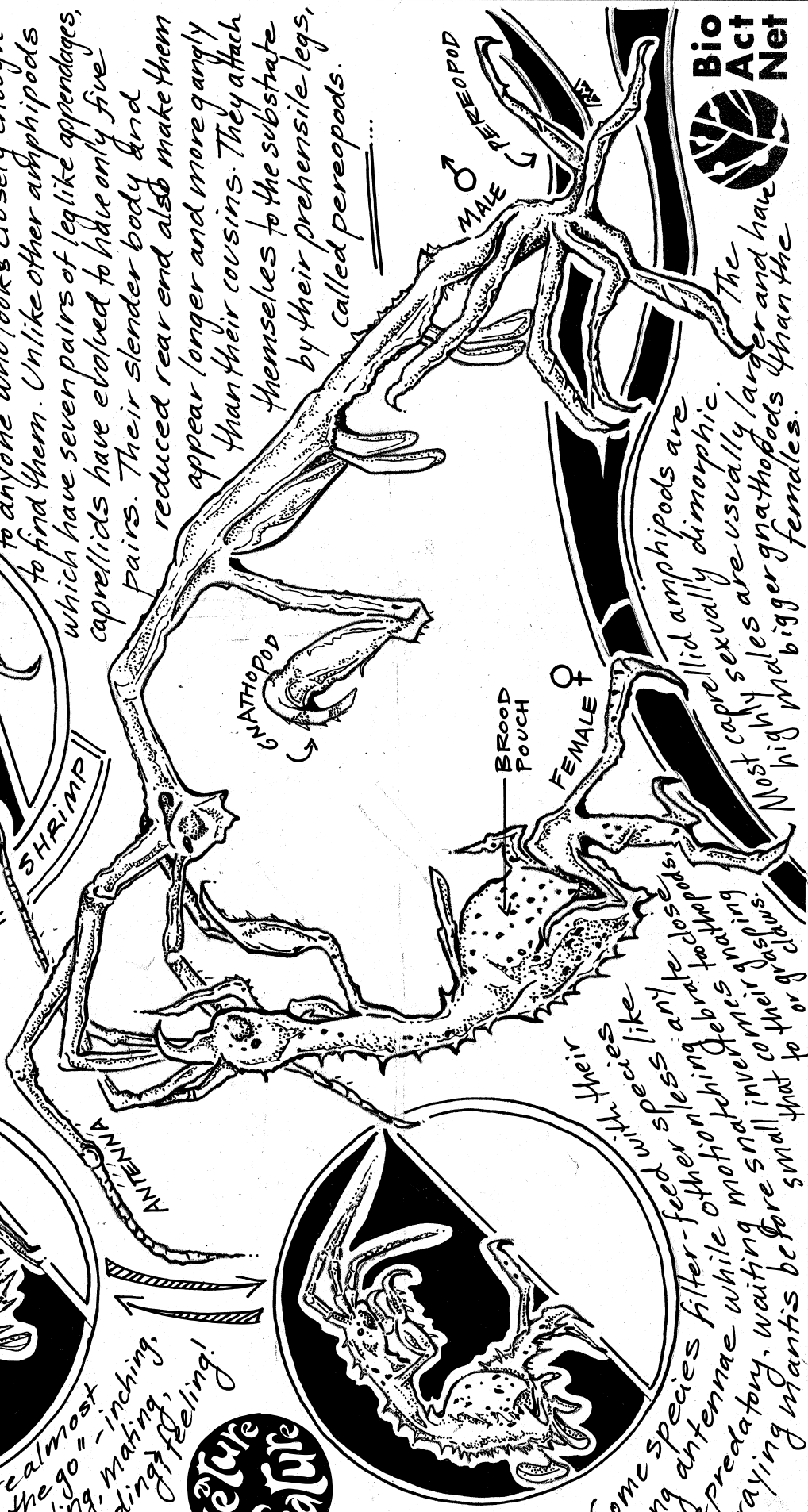
There are over two dozen species of CAPRELLID AMPHIPODS, commonly known as skeleton shrimp, living in waters of the northeast Pacific Ocean.

Usually unnoticed - their threadlike bodies disappearing among the fine filaments of seaweeds, hydroids, and other substrates - they are a delight to anyone who looks closely enough to find them. Unlike other amphipods which have seven pairs of leglike appendages, caprellids have evolved to have only five pairs. Their slender body and reduced rear end also make them appear longer and more gangly than their cousins. They attach themselves to the substrate by their prehensile legs, called pereopods.

The waving back and forth of their bodies gives them the appearance of dancing.



Caprellids are almost always "on the go" - inching, feeding, mating, or feeling!



Some species filter-feed or passively long antennae while others are active predators, waiting for small prey. Praying mantis before small prey. Some species filter-feed or passively long antennae while others are active predators, waiting for small prey. Praying mantis before small prey.

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