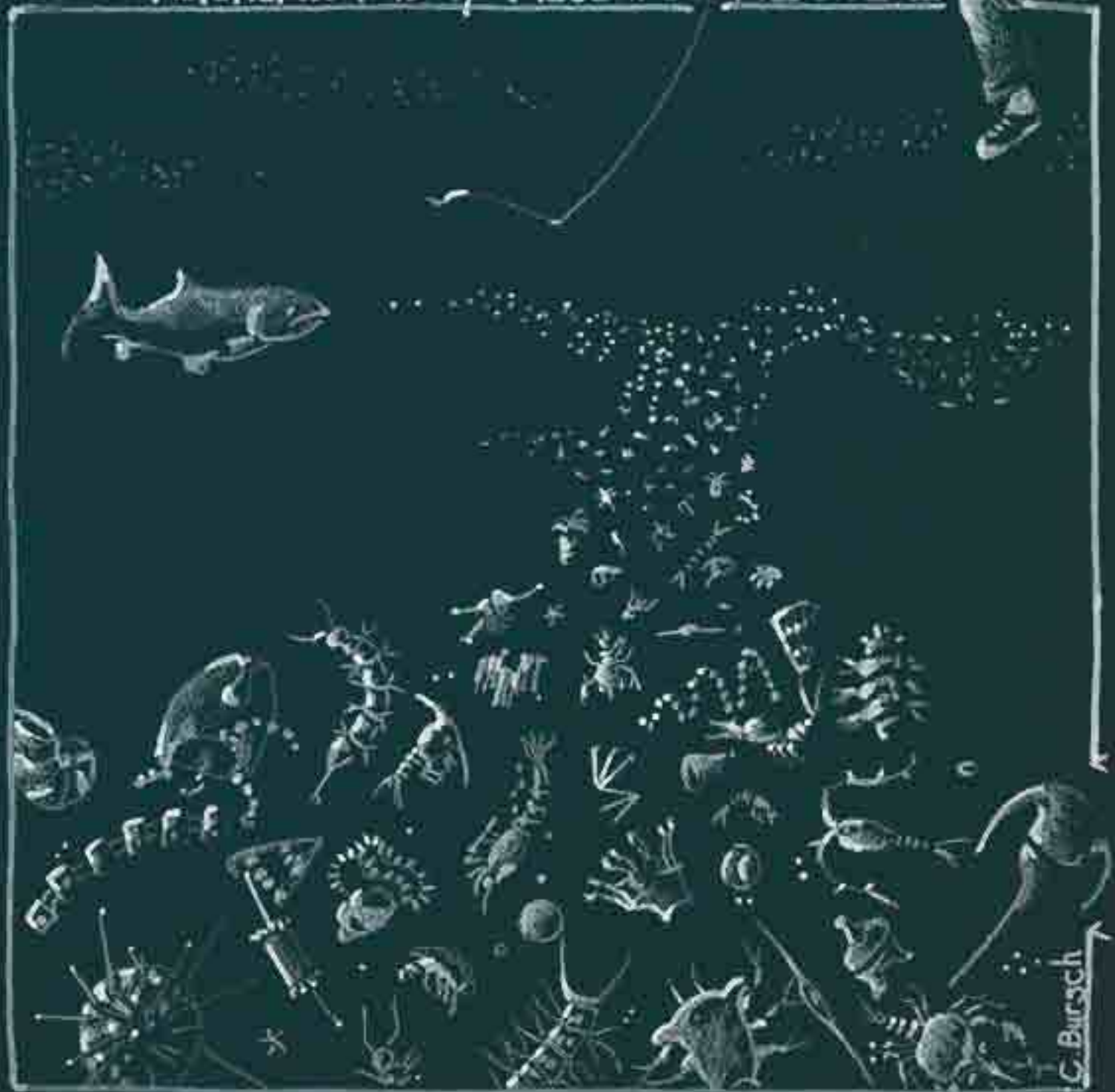


# Marine Plankton

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve



C. Burge

# What does 'marine plankton' mean?

'Marine' means having to do with the ocean and 'plankton' are living things, mostly small, that float in water. So 'marine plankton' are living things that drift in the waters of the ocean. Most plankton are very tiny and very weak swimmers. They reach new feeding grounds by taking advantage of the tides and currents. There are plant plankton (phytoplankton) and animal plankton (zooplankton).

Many ocean animals we find at low tide on the beach start out life as larvae, or babies. They float around as plankton until they reach a certain age and then settle on the bottom of the ocean to grow up. Other zooplankton never get larger than the period at the end of this sentence and spend their whole life drifting around the ocean.

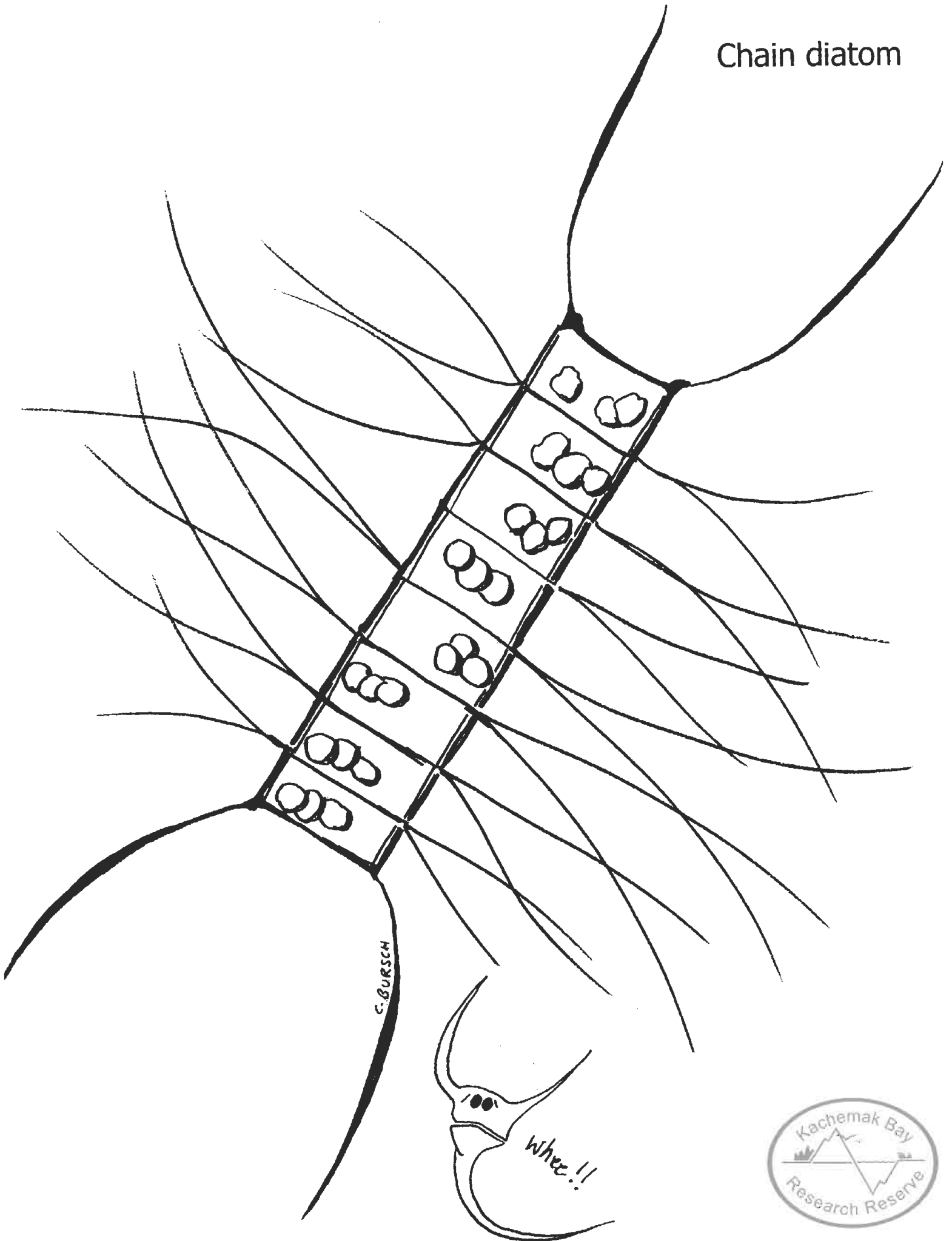
Plant plankton like to float near the top of the ocean so they get plenty of sunshine. They need all the things plants in your yard need: sun, air, water and food. They have plenty of water and nutrients in the ocean and can even get air from the sea water.

The coolest thing about plankton is that almost all other living things in the ocean need them. Plankton are VERY important. If they weren't around, none of the bigger animals in the ocean could live. Small ocean animals that eat plankton are food for bigger animals, and these are food for even bigger animals... all the way up to the largest whales. So any fish or ocean animal you eat depends on plankton to live – you can thank Dino and his buddies next time you eat salmon or halibut!

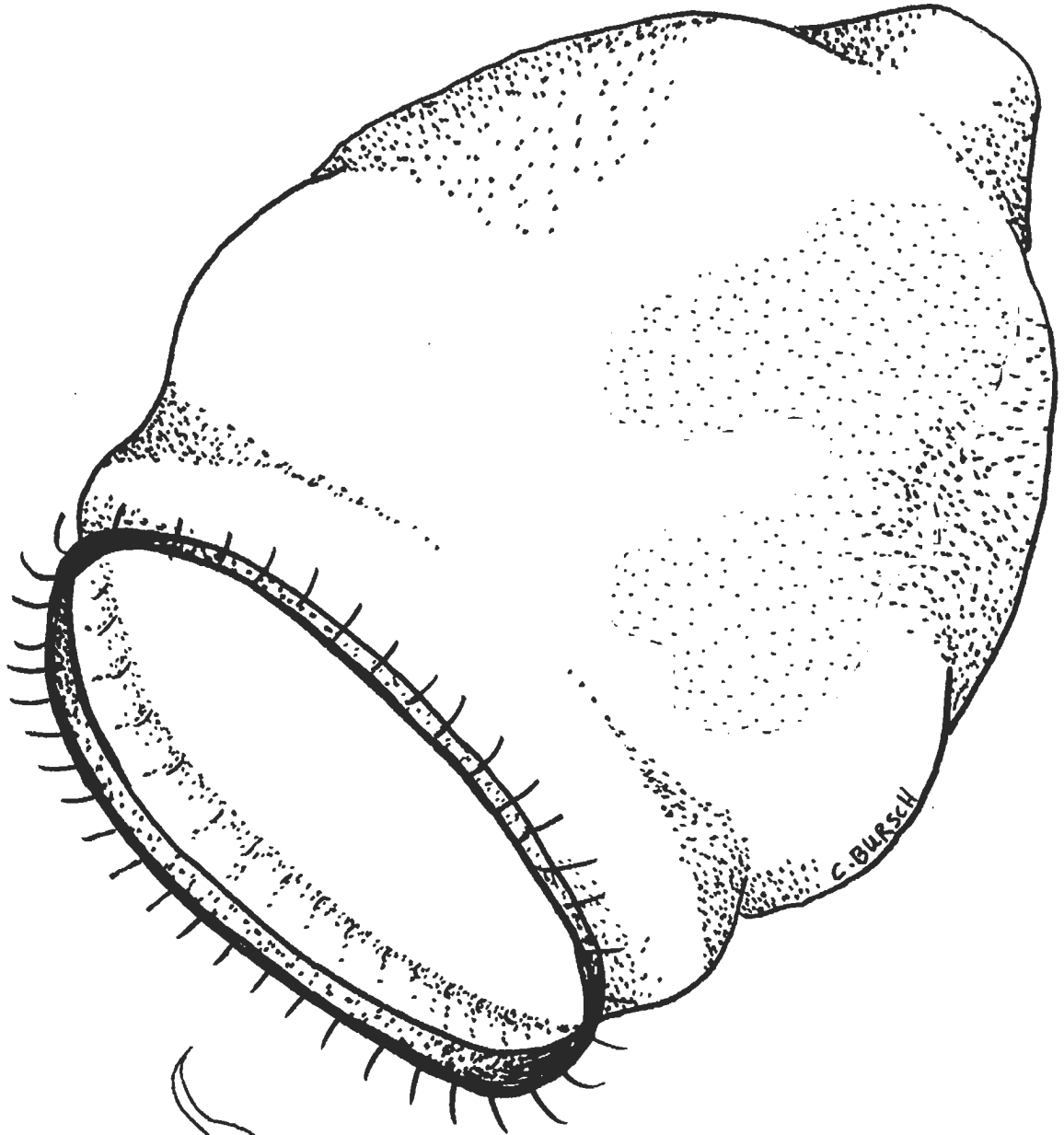
Hi, my name  
is Dino.  
Follow me and  
I'll introduce you  
to my plankton buddies!



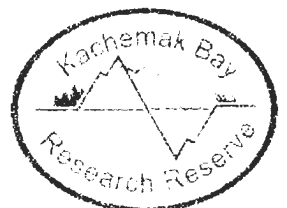
Chain diatom



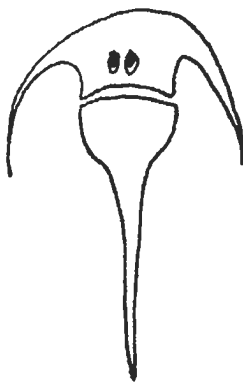
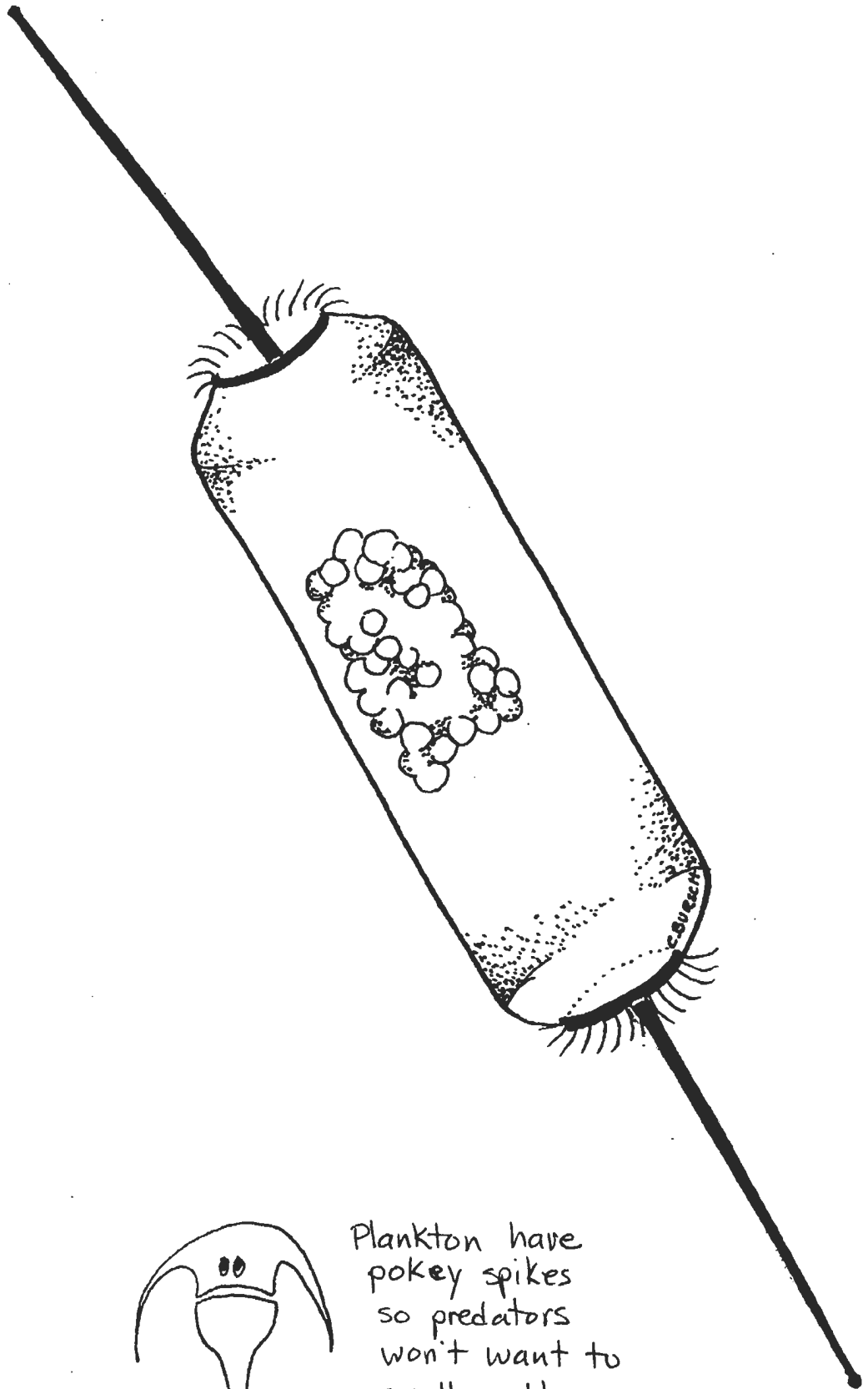
# Ciliate



This ciliate  
is clear, like glass.



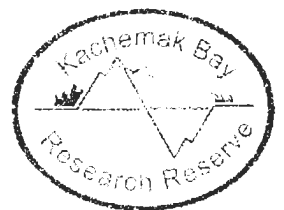
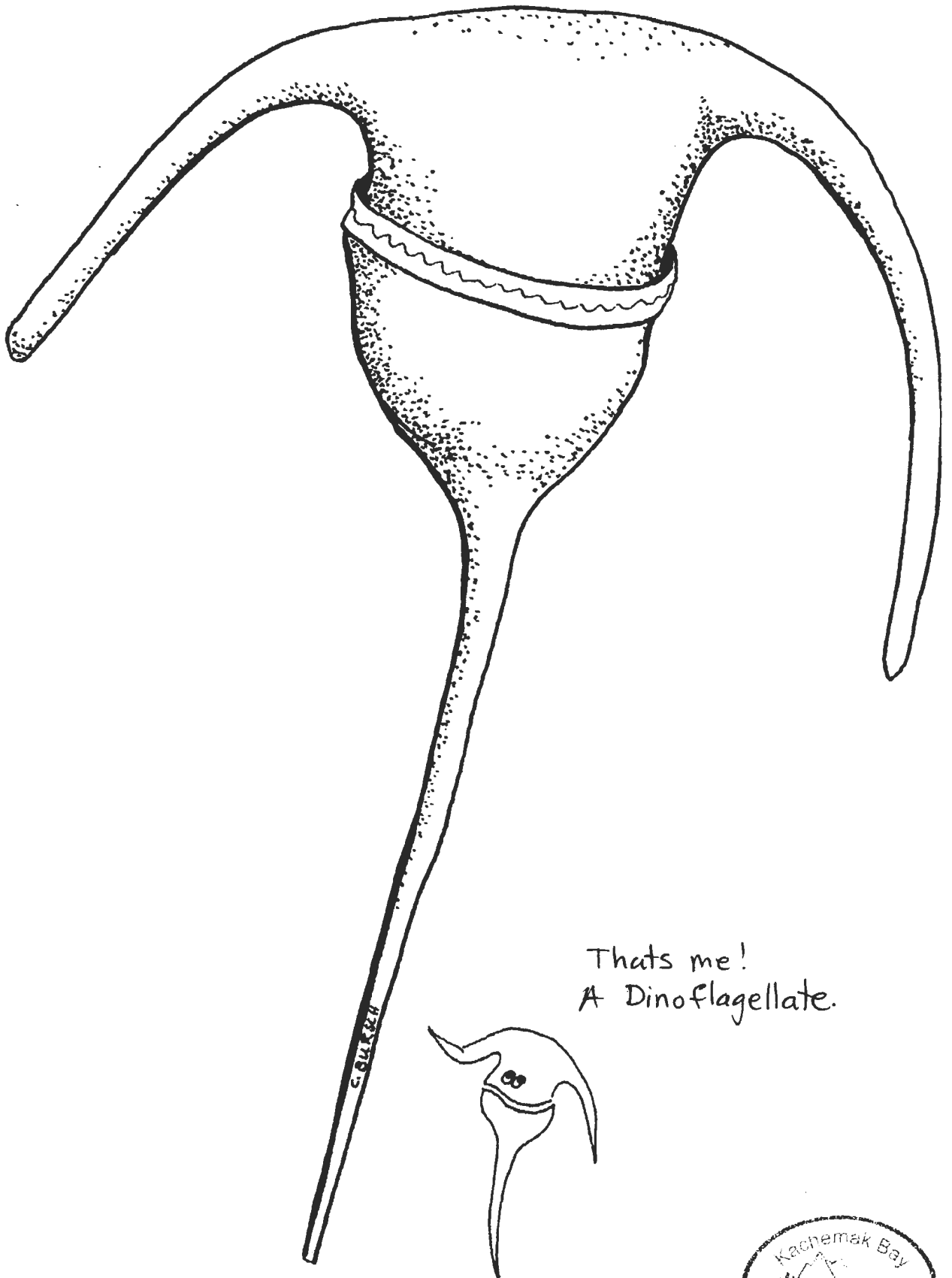
# Diatom



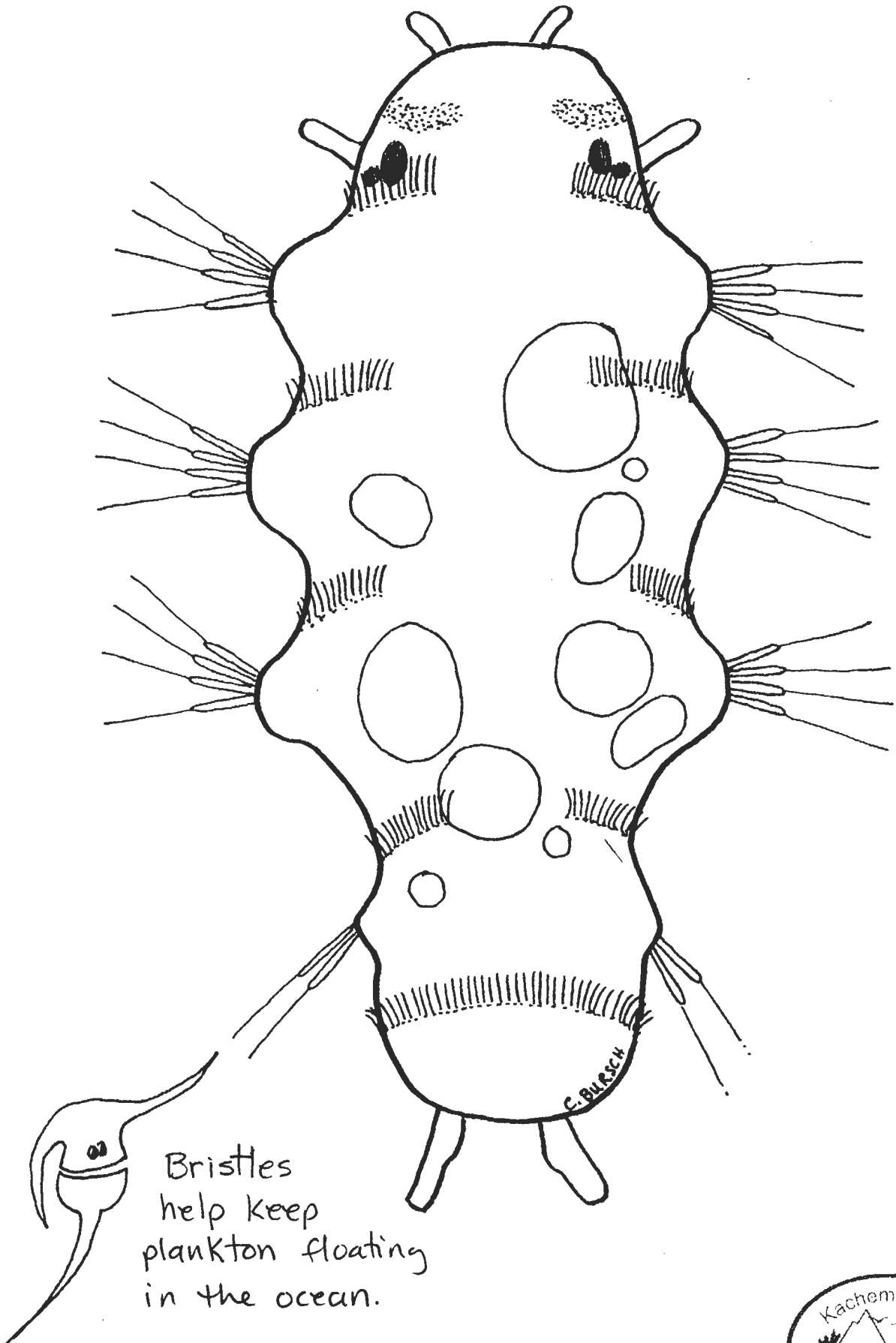
Plankton have  
pokey spikes  
so predators  
won't want to  
swallow them.



# Dinoflagellate



# Worm larva



# Barnacle nauplius

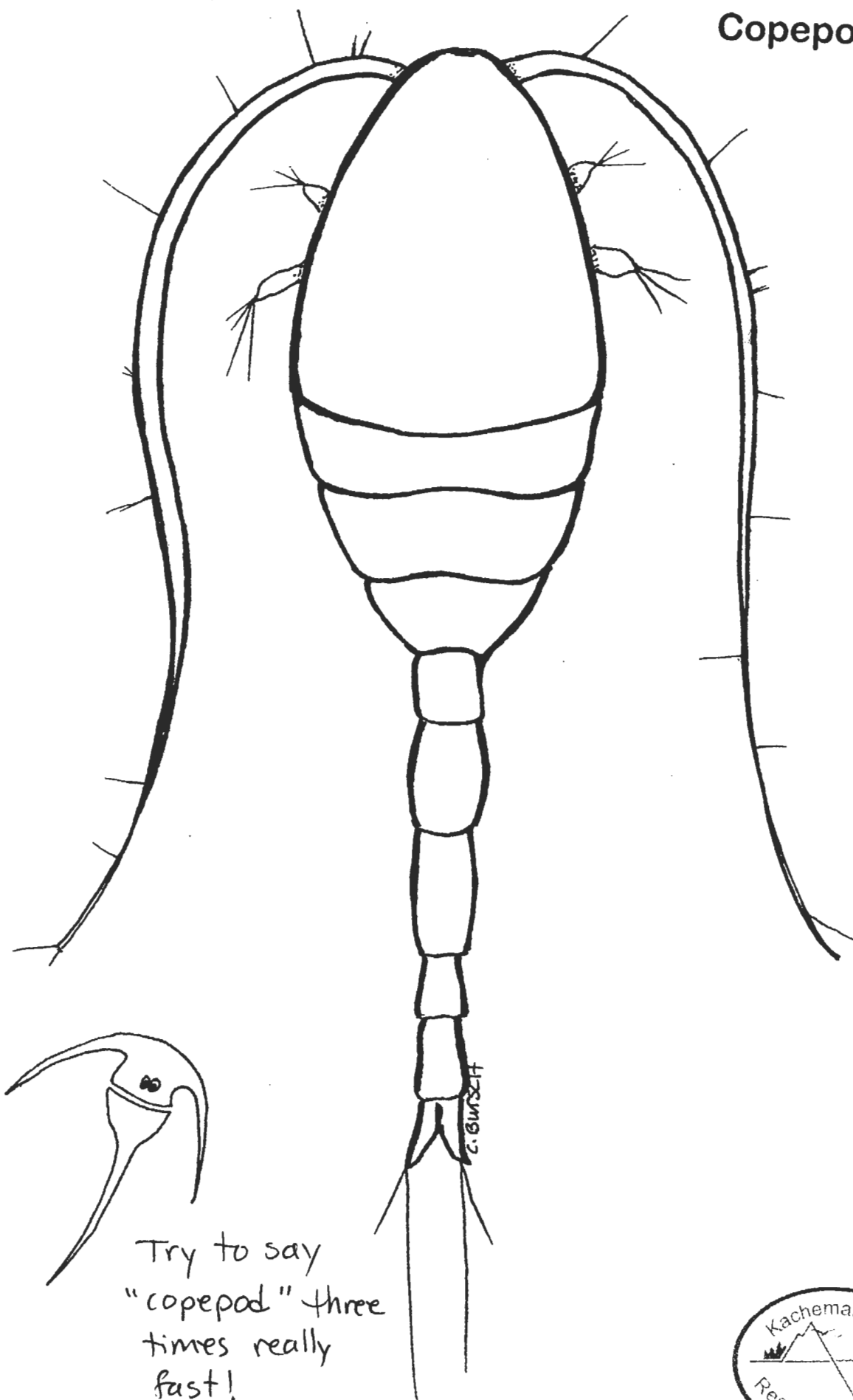


This barnacle  
"nauplius" will  
attach to a rock  
when it gets  
older.



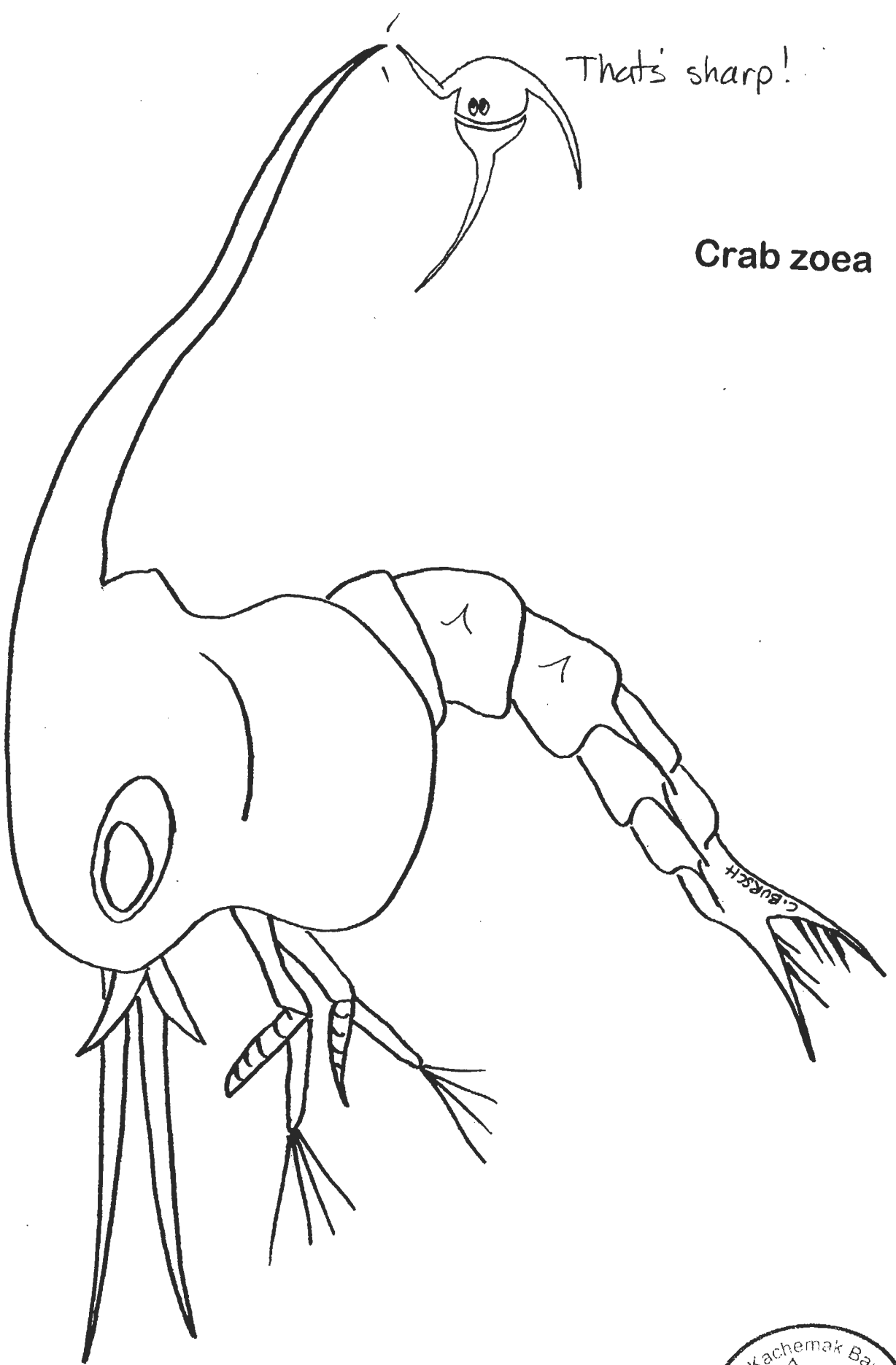


# Copepod

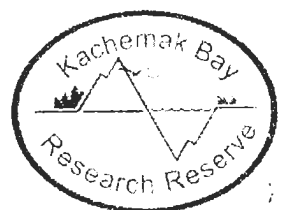


Try to say  
"copepod" three  
times really  
fast!

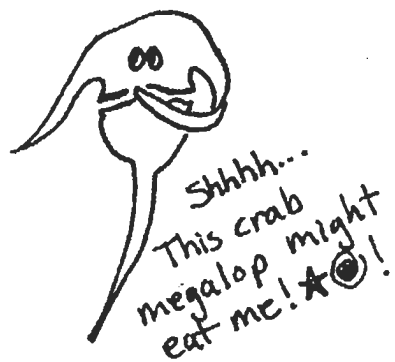
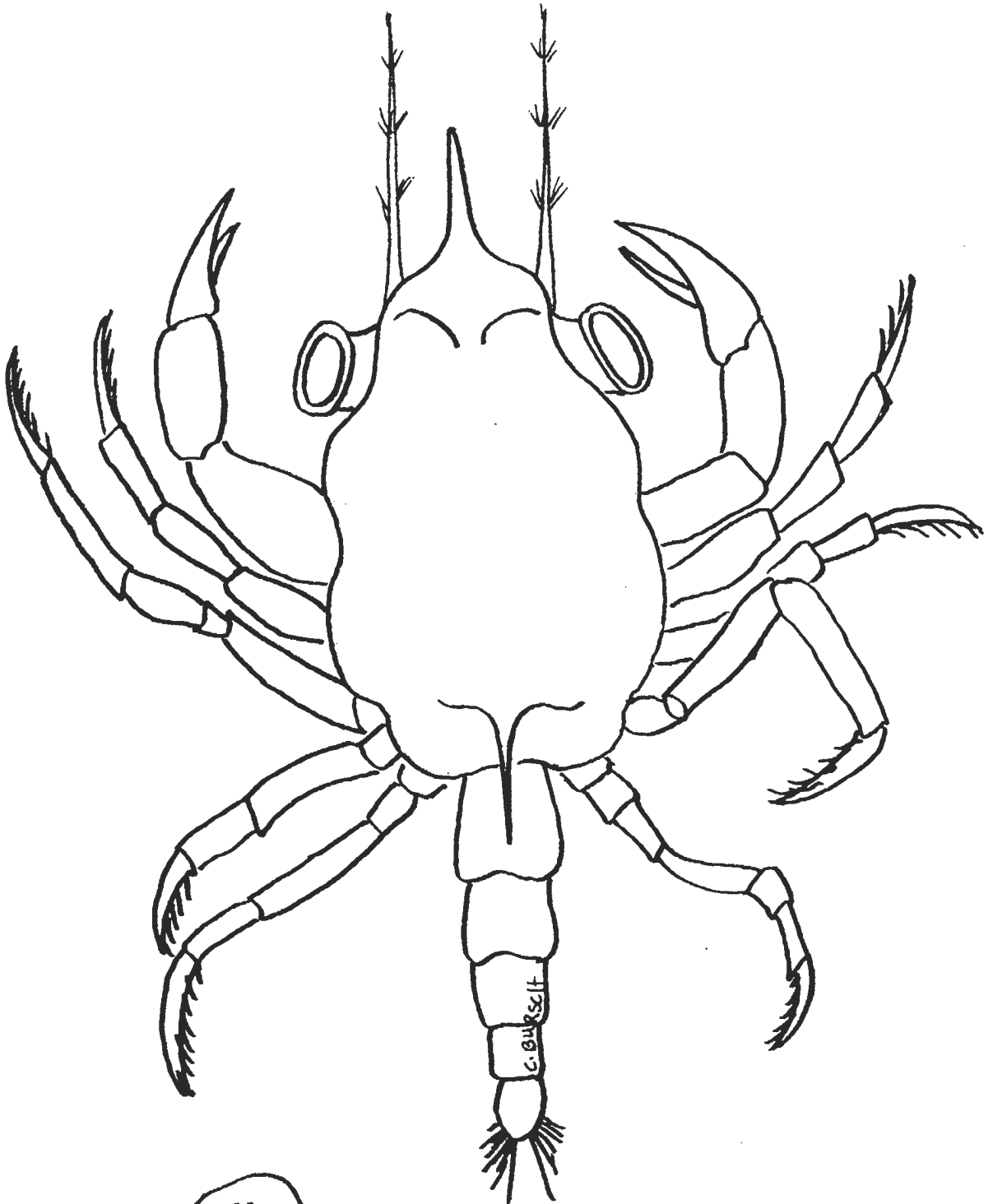




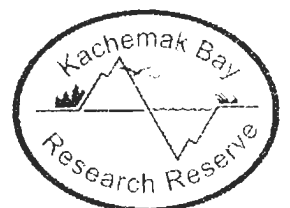
**Crab zoea**



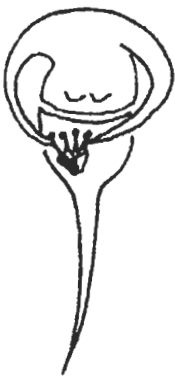
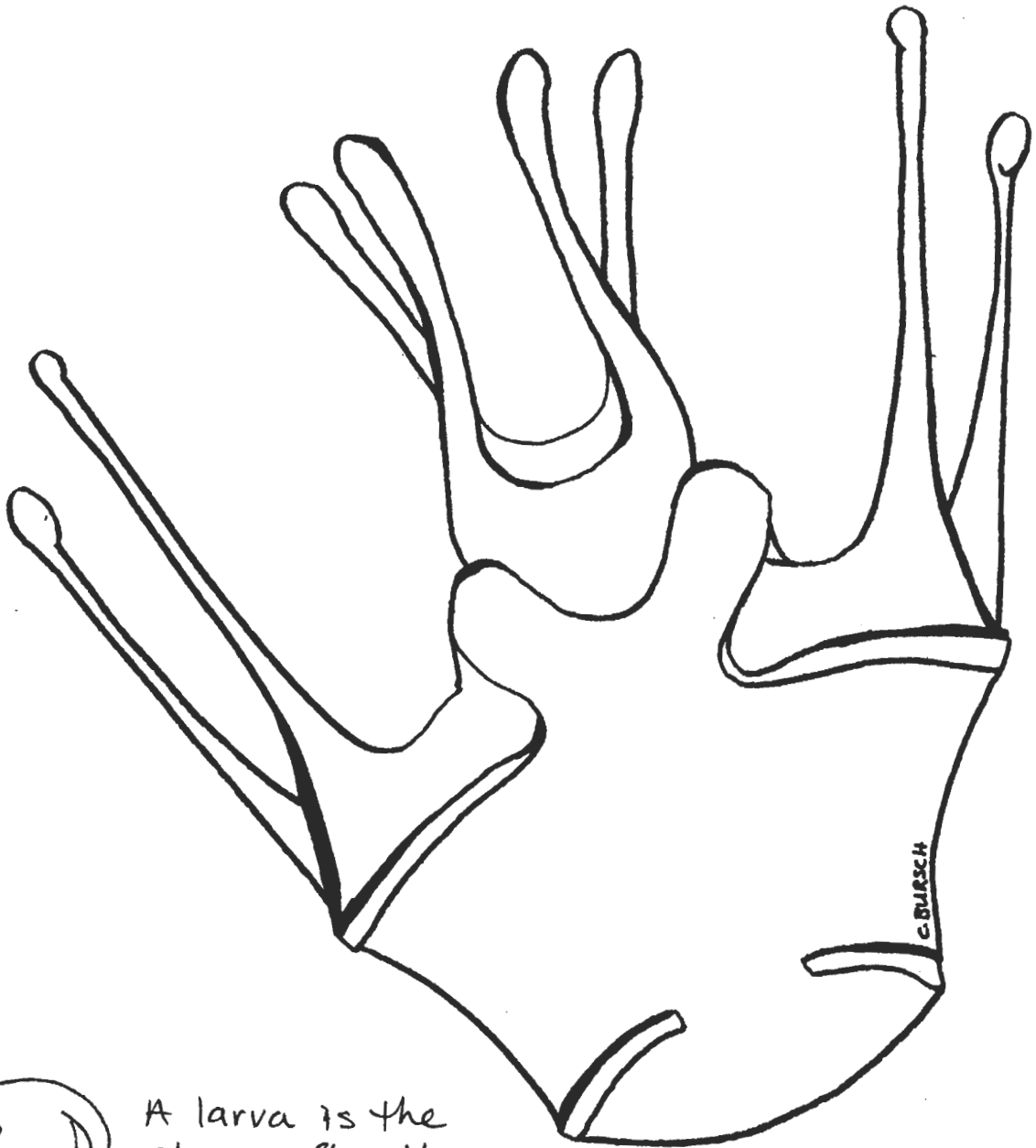
# Crab megalop



# Krill



# Sea urchin larva



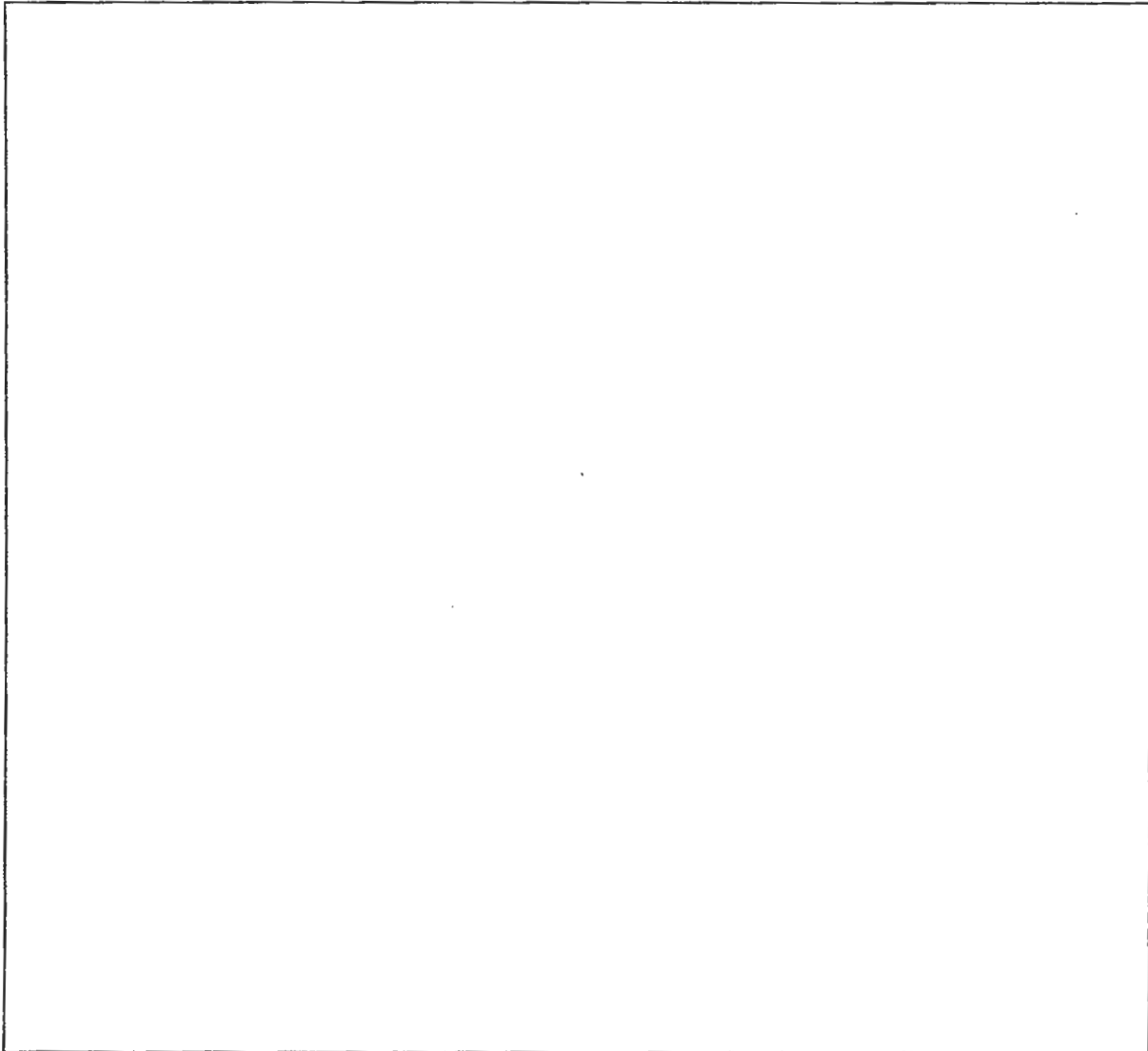
A larva is the stage after the egg, like a baby.

This is a sea urchin larva.



# My plankton

(design your own)



**What do you call your plankton?**

That's a new  
one!



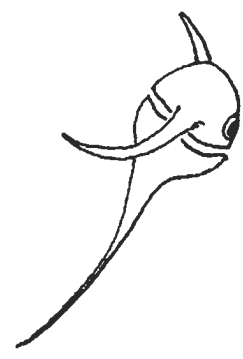
**Common name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scientific name:** \_\_\_\_\_

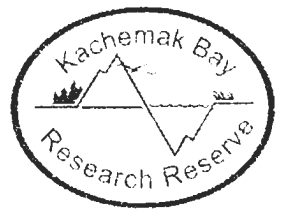




start  
here → 2...78



Wee...  
Lets go dot to dot  
counting by  
2's!



# MARINE PLANKTON COLORING BOOK

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