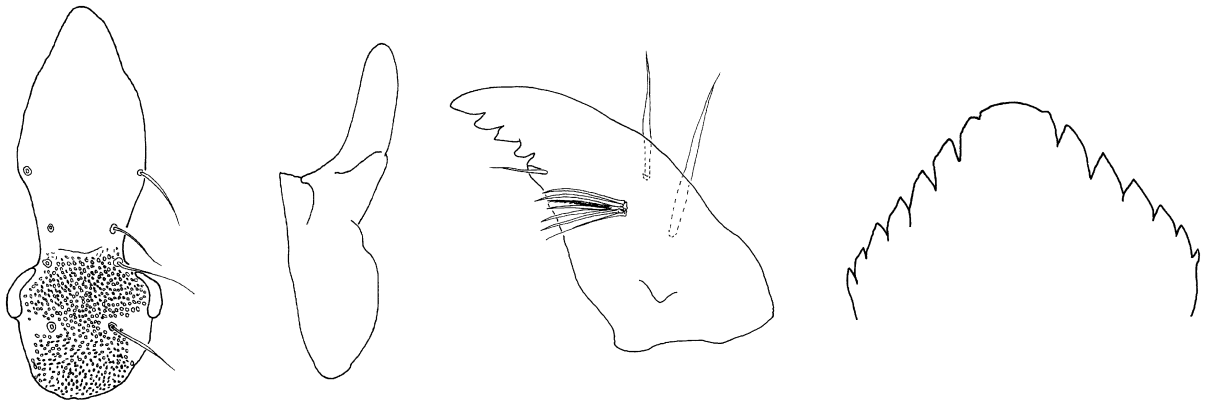
SUBFAMILY
TELMATOGETONINAE 2

DIAGNOSIS: Antennae 4 segmented, short (less than 1/5 length of mandible). **Labrum** with simple S setae. Labral lamellae absent. Premandibles present. **Mentum** with 11-15 teeth, ventromental plates and beard absent. **Prementum** with dense, well developed median brush. **Body** with well developed anterior and posterior parapods. Procercus absent. Anal tubules absent in eastern U.S. species.

NOTES: In the continental United States, this subfamily is restricted to coastal marine environments such as rocky shores, coastal jetties, sea walls, salt water canals, etc. Larvae are almost invariably associated with algae growing attached to rocks. Two genera, each represented by a single species, occur in the eastern United States: *Telmatogeton* is found from Florida to Newfoundland; *Thalassomya* is apparently restricted to Florida in the U.S. Larvae of this subfamily may be mistaken for some orthoclad larvae, but can be easily distinguished by the dense median brush on the prementum, short antennae and the absence of procerci.

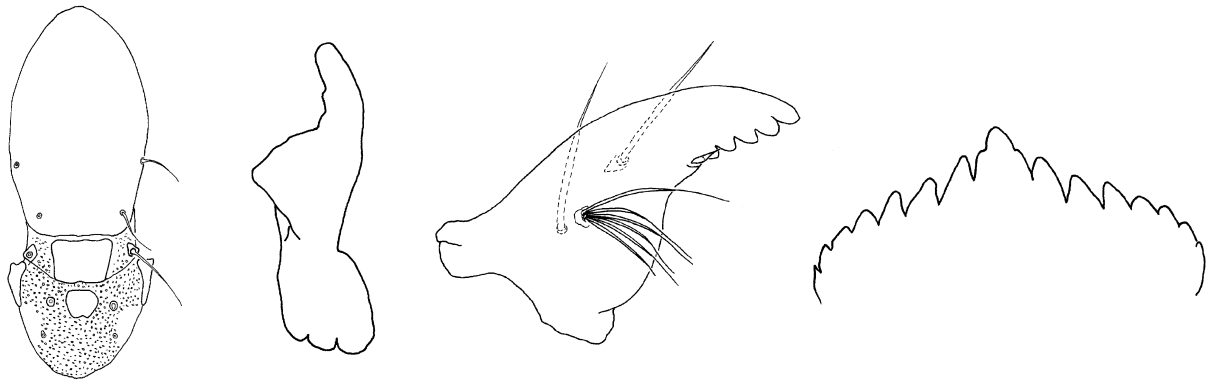
Key to the genera of larval Telmatogetoninae of the eastern United States

1 Anterodorsal portion of head without medial sclerites anterior to apotome; premandible simple; mandible apparently with 3 inner teeth; mentum with 13 teeth ..... ***Thalassomya***



apotome premandible mandible mentum

1' Anterodorsal portion of head with 2 well developed medial sclerites anterior to apotome; premandible with 3 blunt apical teeth; mandible with 4 inner teeth; mentum with 15 teeth (outer tooth very small; median tooth may appear notched) ..... ***Telmatogeton***



apotome premandible mandible mentum

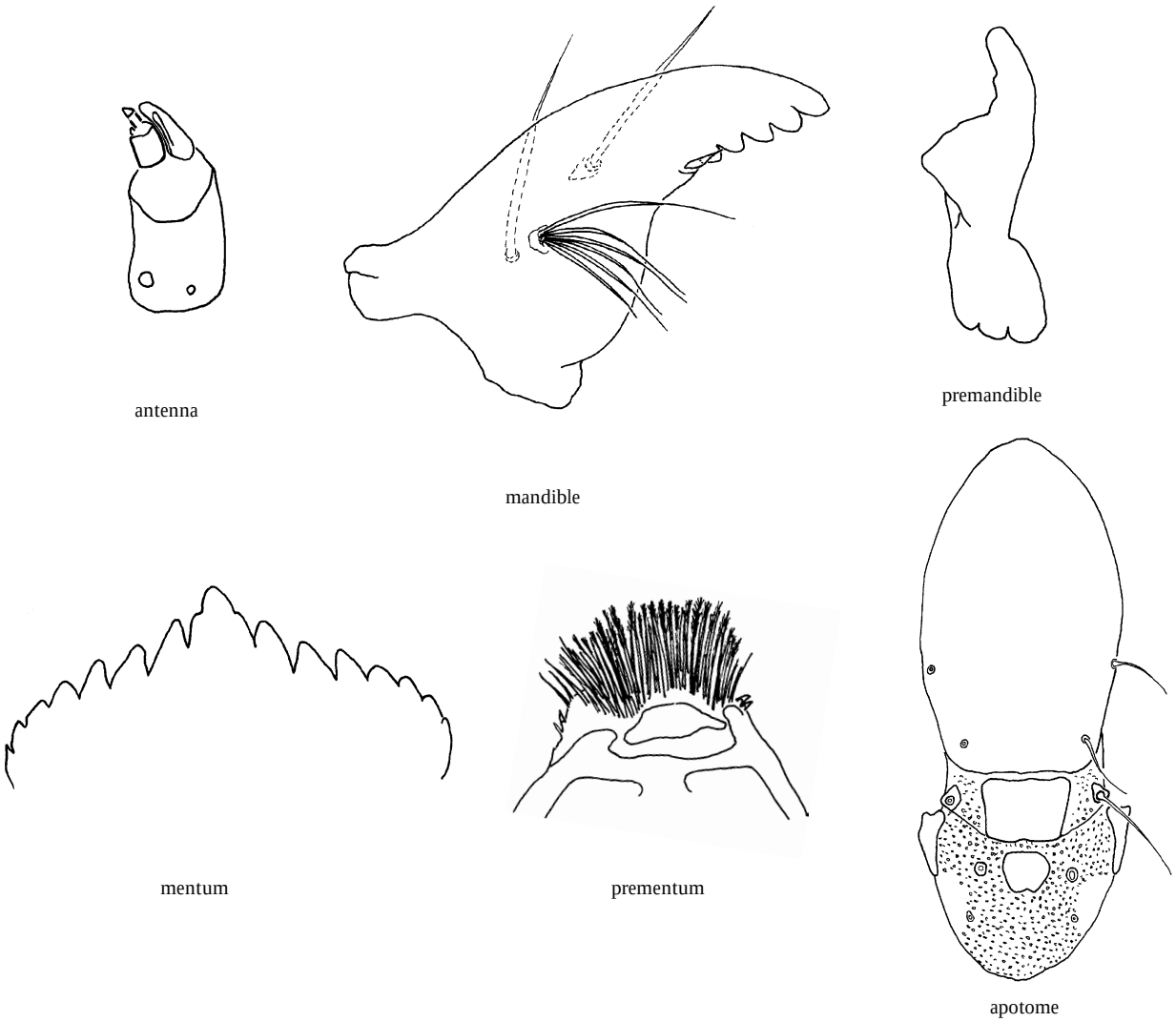
Genus ***Telmatogeton***

DIAGNOSIS: Separated from *Thalassomya* by the presence of labral sclerites anterior to the apotome; premandible with blunt apical teeth; and 15-toothed mentum.

NOTES: Only one species, *T. japonicus*, is known from eastern North America; it is known to occur from Florida north to Newfoundland (Epler 1992; 1995, Colbo 1996). I have not seen any specimens from the Carolinas but it undoubtedly occurs here and is recorded by Caldwell et al. (1997). I have found this species to be abundant in March on rock jetties in several locations in Florida. Adults "swarm" on or immediately above the rocks of the jetties. Larvae and pupae can be collected from algae scraped from the rocks; larval and pupal exuviae are easily collected by skimming beachside foam produced by wave action.

Although all Tematogetoninae in the eastern U.S. are marine, several species of *Telmatogeton* have invaded freshwater in Hawaii.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: Tokunaga 1935; Wirth 1952.



T. japonicus, larval structures

Genus *Thalassomya*

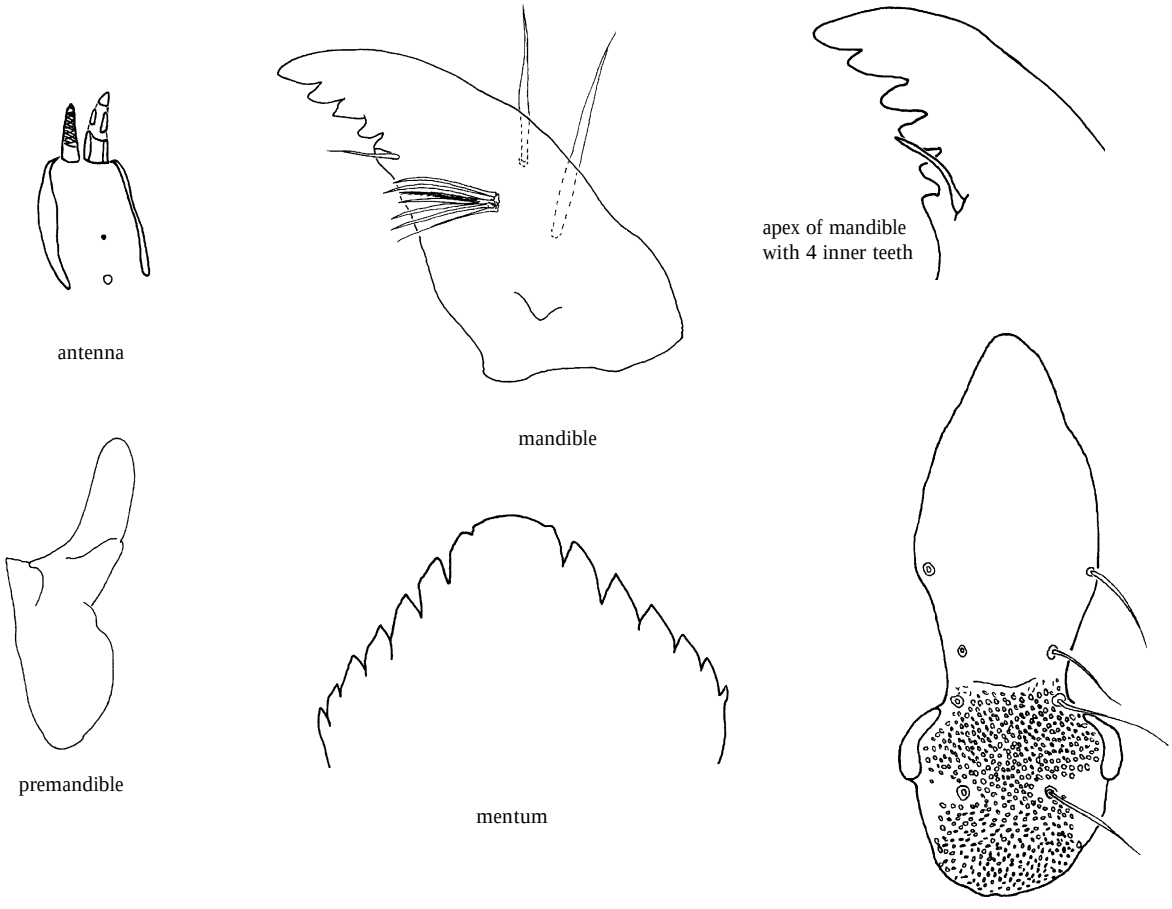
DIAGNOSIS: *Thalassomya* can be separated from *Telmatogeton* by the lack of distinct labral sclerites anterior to the apotome; the simple premandible; and the lower number of teeth on the mentum.

NOTES: One species, *Th. bureni*, is known from Florida in the Southeast U.S. Although Oliver et al. (1990) record this coastal marine species from Florida to North Carolina (and include a record from landlocked Kentucky!), I have not seen any specimens of *Thalassomya* collected north of coastal central Florida (Dunedin).

Wirth (1952) described the larva from specimens collected from algae on rocks at Lake Worth in Florida. I have collected larvae of *Thalassomya* from algae scraped from completely submerged rocks in the Intracoastal Waterway in Pompano Beach, FL, where they coexisted with larvae of the orthoclad genus *Clunio.* I have also collected adults of *Th. bureni* on rock jetties in Dunedin and Key West, Florida.

Wirth (1952) described the larva of *Th. bureni* with 11 mental teeth and 3 inner teeth on the mandible. However, specimens of *Thalassomya* I've collected possess 13 mental teeth (the outermost teeth are small and can be closely appressed to their neighbors) and 4 inner teeth on the mandible. Some specimens appear to have only 3 teeth, but apparently this is a result of the innermost tooth being closely appressed to the molar region of the mandible. My specimens were not reared; if one assumes only one species occurs in the Southeast U.S., they represent *Th. bureni*.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: Wirth 1949; 1952.



Th. bureni, larval structures