

***Biremia ambocerca* n. gen., n. sp., the First Record of the Marine Isopod Crustacean Family Bathynataliidae from Australian Waters**

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ABSTRACT. *Biremia ambocerca* n. gen., n. sp. is described and figured; it is distinguished from other bathynataliid genera by lacking operculate first pleopods, and in having biramous uropods. The genus is unique within the Isopoda in having a second endite on the maxilliped. The single specimen was taken off Lady Elliot Island, southern Great Barrier Reef, and is the first record of the family from beyond the south-western Indian Ocean. A new family diagnosis is provided, and a key is given for the 3 monotypic genera of the Bathynataliidae.

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The family Bathynataliidae Kensley, 1978 was previously known from two monotypic genera recorded only from South Africa (Kensley, 1978, 1979). The occurrence of the family in eastern Australia greatly expands its known range. There are many morphological differences between the Australian specimen and the South African genera, and a new genus is established to accommodate the species. The new genus differs from the other genera in possessing a second endite on the maxilliped, pleonite 1 not visible in dorsal view and uropods with reduced rami. The family diagnosis is here emended.

Family Bathynataliidae Kensley, 1978

Diagnosis. Body dorsoventrally flattened. Cephalon, anterolateral margins expanded; posterior margin fused with pereonite 1. Pereonites 2 to 7 distinct, coxae present on at least pereonites 2 to 6. Pleon with 4 or 5 visible pleonites and large pleotelson; at least 2 pleonites with free lateral margins. Mandible with molar process absent (*Bathynatalia*, *Biremia* n. gen.) or vestigial (*Naudea*), lacinia present on left (*Biremia* n. gen., *Naudea*) or right (*Bathynatalia*) mandible. Maxillule with 10 or 11 stout spines. Maxilla, inner ramus uni- or bilobed. Maxilliped palp 3-articled, endite with distinct basal suture and single large coupling hook.

Pereopod 1 robust, subchelate; pereopods 2 to 6 or 2 to 7 slender. Pleopods lying in chamber formed by thickening of ventrolateral margins of pleotelson; pleopods 1 to 3 with large peduncles, rami setose; pleopods 4 and 5 with small peduncles, rami setation reduced. Uropod insertion subterminal, rami small (smaller than peduncle) or absent.

Type-species. *Bathynatalia gilchristi* Barnard, 1957.

Remarks. The family Bathynataliidae now consists of three genera: *Bathynatalia* Barnard, 1957, *Naudea* Kensley, 1979 and *Biremia* n. gen. As indicated by Kensley (1978, 1979) the family is most closely allied to the Serolidae. The serolid genus *Basserolis* Poore, 1985 further emphasises the similarity of the two families. *Basserolis*, whilst having reduced mouthparts that differ markedly to those of *Serolis* (see Harrison & Poore, 1984), has pereopods and pleopods that are essentially the same as those of *Biremia*.

All serolid genera are easily identified by the fourth pair of pleopods being operculate (Harrison & Poore, 1984; Poore, 1985). In the Bathynatalidae the pleopods are all lamelliform, or the first pair is operculate. In *Biremia* there is an abrupt change in the morphology of pleopods 1 to 3 and 4 and 5, with pleopods 4 and 5 being larger and broader than 1 to 3, a condition approaching that shown by the serolids. Most serolids have a pleon of 3 visible segments and the uropods