

A Review of the Stenetriidae (Crustacea: Isopoda: Asellota)

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ABSTRACT. The current classification of the Stenetriidae includes five genera and 63 species, of which 57 species are contained in the genus *Stenetrium* Haswell, 1881. A history of the classification of the family Stenetriidae is reviewed and useful characters for defining stenetriid taxa and species are derived from the literature. A new diagnosis for the family is provided. *Stenetrium* is redefined and its composition reduced to 18 species. The type species of *Stenetrium*, *S. armatum* Haswell, 1881, is fully redescribed. A new species, *Stenetrium adrianae*, is described in this paper, highlighting morphological variation that can be useful for distinguishing stenetriid taxa. Three other named genera, *Stenobermuda* Schultz, 1979a (*Stenetrigus* Schultz, 1982 is a junior synonym), *Protallocoxa* Schultz, 1978, and *Tenupedunculus* Schultz, 1982, are redefined and their compositions adjusted. Four new genera, *Tristenium*, *Hansenium*, *Liocoryphe*, and *Mizothenar*, are erected to contain distinctive species groups not treated in the literature. Six species are poorly described and cannot be classified in this new arrangement for the family. Lists of species assigned to each group and a key to the genera are provided.

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The isopod family Stenetriidae Hansen, 1905 occupies a central role in the understanding of the suborder Asellota. The disagreement between Wägele (1982, 1989) and Wilson (1987) on stenetriid sister group relationships highlights this family's importance. Although the Stenetriidae shares apomorphies with more derived Asellota (Wilson, 1987), the Stenetriidae also contain important variation in the male pleopods, sometimes resembling members of two other asellote families, the Gnathostenetroididae Kussakin, 1967 and the Pseudojaniridae Wilson, 1986a. Unlike most non-janiroidean families of Asellota, the Stenetriidae range from tropical to polar shallow marine waters (Kussakin, 1973; Hessler *et al.*, 1979), thus occupying

possible ancestral habitats for the Asellota. Despite being a potentially rich source of phylogenetic information on asellote relationships, the Stenetriidae has received little revisionary attention. Our paper re-addresses this situation.

After Hansen's (1905: 303) description of the family, Wolff (1962) provided the only comprehensive examination of stenetriid species, but encountered barriers to understanding their interrelationships. The overall similarity of most species made the division of stenetriid taxa difficult. Wolff (1962: 21) stated that "on the whole, *Stenetrium* is no doubt exceedingly homogenous." This apparent homogeneity, however, was often caused by "short, insufficiently detailed