

The Genera *Bembicium* and *Risellopsis* (Gastropoda: Littorinidae) in Australia and New Zealand

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ABSTRACT. The taxonomy of the Australasian littorinid genera *Bembicium* and *Risellopsis* is revised. Five Recent species of *Bembicium* are recognised: *auratum*, *nanum*, *melanostoma*, *vittatum* and *flavescens*, the first four of which occur on the Australian mainland, the last on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. *B. melanostoma*, *B. vittatum* and *B. flavescens* are sibling species which have been synonymised as *B. melanostoma* in recent systematic accounts, and are shown to be allopatric and distinguished mainly by characters of the penis. At least three fossil species of *Bembicium* are known, of which one is described as new, and the fossil record extends back to the late Oligocene or early Miocene. The genus is endemic to Australasia and presently extinct in New Zealand and the Kermadec Islands. The genus *Risellopsis* is monotypic, represented only by *R. varia* in New Zealand, and has no fossil record before the Pleistocene. Systematic descriptions of the shell and animal and details of habitat and distribution are given for each species. These genera are abundant in the intertidal zone and the rather large literature on their biology and ecology is reviewed. Relationships with other littorinacean taxa are discussed. It is suggested that *Bembicium* and *Risellopsis* together form a monophyletic group, defined by synapomorphies of anterior salivary glands, anterior position of the junction of the duct of the seminal receptacle with the pallial oviduct, longitudinal division of the jelly gland and trochoidal shell shape. The littorinid genus *Peasiella* is superficially similar in shell characters, but anatomical features show that it is not closely related to *Bembicium* and *Risellopsis*. Interesting features of *Bembicium* include the type of development (the hatching of planktotrophic veligers from benthic egg masses recorded in two species is rare in the family) and the extreme intraspecific variability in the form of the radular teeth.

REID, D.G., 1988. The genera *Bembicium* and *Risellopsis* (Gastropoda: Littorinidae) in Australia and New Zealand. Records of the Australian Museum 40(2): 91-150.

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