

Amphipoda from the South Pacific: Western Samoa

A.A. MYERS

Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology, University College,
Lee Maltings, Prospect Row, Cork, Ireland
alanM@ucc.ie

ABSTRACT. Forty species in twelve families of gammaridean Amphipoda are recorded from Upolu Island, Western Samoa. Three species are new to science, *Rostrogitanopsis cuculla* n.sp., *Maeracoota tridentata* n.sp. and *Ischyrocerus apiensis* n.sp. and are described and figured. Twenty-seven of the thirty-five species known from outside Samoa, are widespread. Eight species have limited extrinsic distributions, two being shared with Papua New Guinea, two with Fiji and Tonga, two with Kosrae (Micronesia) one with the Gambier archipelago and one with Moorea, Tonga and Fiji.

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Collections of gammaridean Amphipoda were made by the writer in 1979, at Upolu Island, Western Samoa, in 0–1.5 m and are reported on here. Forty species were collected of which three, *Rostrogitanopsis cuculla*, *Maeracoota tridentata* and *Ischyrocerus apiensis* are new to science. In addition, two new species have already been described from this material, *Cerapus oceanicus* Lowry (1985) and *Globosolembos tiafaui* Myers (1985a), neither of which has yet been recorded from outside Samoa.

The amphipod fauna of Western Samoa does not exhibit a close biogeographic affinity with that of any other particular Pacific island or archipelago. On the contrary, those species which are not widespread Pacific taxa are shared variously with islands to the east, west and north. Two species, *Bemlos tui* and *Gammaropsis planodentata* are known otherwise only from Papua New

Guinea (Myers, 1995a), two species, *Elasmopus lapu* and *Lelehua malevua* are otherwise known only from Fiji (Myers, 1985b) and Tonga (Myers, 1986), two species, *Paradexamine tafunsaka* and *Elasmopus aduncus* are known otherwise only from Kosrae in Micronesia (Myers, 1995b) whilst one species, *Hyale dentifera* is currently known only from the Gambier Archipelago (Chevreux, 1907, 1908), and one species, *Parambasia nui* is known only from Moorea, Tonga and Fiji (Myers, 1985b, 1986, 1989). Thus Samoa has biogeographic links across much of the Pacific.

Figures and descriptions are here given of the three new species.

Type and voucher material is deposited in the collections of the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). Station (stn) data and an annotated list of species records, are presented in Tables 1 and 2.