

A New Genus and Two New Species of Cypridinidae (Crustacea: Ostracoda: Myodocopina) from Australia

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ABSTRACT. A new genus and two new species of Cypridinidae, *Lowrya taiti* and *Lowrya kornickeri*, are described from New South Wales, Australia. Both species are scavengers. They possess an elongate frontal knob and a structurally coloured red area on the rostrum of the carapace. The adult males of these species bear large compound eyes with very large dorsal ommatidia and very large “suckers” arising from cup-shaped processes near the base of the c-setae of the first antennae. *Lowrya taiti* possesses “coelotrachs”, which are unusual evagination/setal sensillae of the carapace (Parker, submitted), and a concave anterior margin of the left rostrum only. *Lowrya kornickeri* is unusual because it bears an additional small “sucker” distal to the large basal “sucker” on the basal setule of the b-seta of the male first antenna.

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Cohen (1982) reported 24 genera and about 100 species worldwide in the Cypridinidae. Since 1982 about 60 additional species of cypridinids have been described. Only a few species of cypridinids have previously been reported as scavengers (Sars, 1922; Natas, 1979; Collins *et al.*, 1984; Stepien & Brusca, 1985; Cohen, 1983; Vannier & Abe, 1993).

The Australian Museum has conducted extensive trapping of scavenging crustaceans in eastern Australian seas from 1986 to 1995 known as the SEAS (Scavengers of Eastern Australian Seas) Project. Scavenging cypridinids were present at all depths, and down to about 100 m depth they numerically dominate the scavenging guild, with numbers of individuals reaching to 75,000 per trap (J.K. Lowry, personal communication). From this collection an undescribed genus emerged, identified from other genera

under a dissecting microscope by the possession of a red structural colour on the rostrum of the carapace. The two species described herein, *Lowrya taiti* and *L. kornickeri*, are from this new genus, caught during the above trapping program using single chamber traps designed by Keable (1995).

Lowrya taiti is distinguished from *L. kornickeri* by the presence of coelotrachs (concave sensilla; Parker, in prep.) forming a row on the external carapace surface parallel with the anterior, ventral and posterior carapace margins. *Lowrya taiti* also uniquely exhibits a concave margin of the left carapace rostrum only, with strong sclerotization in the corresponding supplementary region of the right carapace rostrum. *Lowrya kornickeri* is characterized by the presence of a small “sucker” distal to the larger, usual “sucker” of the basal setule of the b-seta of the male first antenna.