

**Amphipods of the Genera**  
***Ceradocus*, *Dulichhiella*, *Melita* and *Nuuanu***  
**(Crustacea: Melitidae)**  
**from Mauritius, Indian Ocean**

CHANDANI APPADOO<sup>1</sup> AND ALAN A. MYERS<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biological Sciences,  
Faculty of Science, University of Mauritius, Réduit, Mauritius  
chandani@uom.ac.mu

<sup>2</sup> Department of Zoology, Ecology and Plant Science,  
National University of Ireland Cork, Lee Maltings, Prospect Row, Cork, Ireland  
alanmyers@crustacea.net

ABSTRACT. Taxonomic descriptions and figures are provided for five new species of Melitidae (*Ceradocus greeni* n.sp., *Dulichhiella cuvettensis* n.sp., *Melita corticis* n.sp. *Melita setimera* n.sp. and *Nuuanu rectimana* n.sp.) from collections made in the shallow coastal waters of Mauritius.

APPADOO, CHANDANI, & ALAN A. MYERS, 2005. Amphipods of the genera *Ceradocus*, *Dulichhiella*, *Melita* and *Nuuanu* (Crustacea: Melitidae) from Mauritius, Indian Ocean. *Records of the Australian Museum* 57(2): 221–236.

In the current study a new species of *Ceradocus*, *C. greeni* n.sp. is described, bringing the number of species of the genus known from Mauritius to three. The two other species, *C. hawaiiensis* J.L. Barnard (1955) and *C. mahafalensis* var. *incisa* Ledoyer (1978), were reported by Ledoyer (1978). A new species of *Dulichhiella*, *D. cuvettensis* n.sp. is recognized, previously wrongly ascribed to *D. appendiculata* (Say, 1818) by Ledoyer (1978) as well as by Appadoo & Steele (1998) and *Nuuanu rectimana* n.sp. is described bringing the number of species of this genus known from the island to two, the other being *Nuuanu amikai* J.L. Barnard, reported by Ledoyer (1978). Only one species of the genus *Melita* was previously recorded from Mauritius, *Melita zeylanica* (Appadoo & Steele, 1998), here attributed to a new species, *Melita corticis* n.sp. A second new species *Melita setimera* n.sp. is now known.

#### Material and methods

Amphipods were collected from algae, seagrass and coral rubble from 24 sites around the island of Mauritius (19°59'–20°32'S 57°18'–57°47'E, Indian Ocean) and from Ile D'Ambre (20°01'–20°02.2'S 57°41'–57°42.2'E), a small island on the northeast coast within the lagoon from February 1998 to February 2000. The sites were visited at low tide and samples were collected from the intertidal and shallow subtidal zones. Algae and rubble were collected by scraping them off their substrates using a small hand trowel. Amphipods were extracted using the formalin-wash method as formalin is an irritant that causes the animals to release hold of the substrates (Barnard, 1976).

Some of the substrates were also collected by snorkelling and diving from depths not exceeding 2 to 3 m. The

\* author for correspondence