

## New and Little-known Melitid Amphipods from Australian Waters (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Melitidae)

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**ABSTRACT.** During a recent review of Australian melitid amphipods (Lowry, Berents & Springthorpe, 2001), a number of problems and undescribed species were revealed. These problems and others uncovered during the course of this study are addressed here. The Melitidae, as currently conceived, is considered to contain at least five natural groups: the *Ceradocopsis* group; the *Ceradocus* group; the *Eriopisa* group; the *Nuuana* group and the *Melita* group. In the *Ceradocus* group *Austromaera* n.gen. is established for *Maera mastersii* Haswell, 1879a, that is redescribed based on syntype material and new collections from Port Jackson. *Ceradocus circe* n.sp. is described based on specimens from Tasmania, originally reported by Chilton (1921b) as *C. rubromaculatus* (Stimpson, 1856). *Maera boecki* Haswell, 1879 and *Maera hamigera* Haswell, 1879 (*sensu stricto*), both originally described from Port Jackson, are redescribed and these species as well as *Maera octodens* Sivaprakasam, 1968 are transferred to the genus *Linguimaera* Pirlot, 1934, recently re-established by Krapp-Schickel (2003). *Linguimaera schickelae* n.sp. is described from the Sydney area. *Maera griffini* Berents, 1983, is tentatively placed in the genus *Maeropsis* Chevreux, 1919. *Mallacoota subcarinata* is redescribed based on syntypes and new collections and four new Australian species (*M. chandaniae* n.sp., *M. euroka* n.sp., *M. kameruka* n.sp. and *M. malua* n.sp.) are described, two of which have previously been mis-identified as *M. subcarinata*. *Mallacoota nananui* Myers, 1985, is reported from Australia for the first time. *Miramaera thetis* n.gen., n.sp. is established for the specimens mis-identified by Stebbing, 1910a as *Maera inaequipis*. We describe a new species of *Pareiasmopus*, *P. sowpigenis* n.sp., from Port Jackson, New South Wales. *Quadrivisio sarina* n.sp. is described from near McKay, Queensland, the first record of *Quadrivisio* Stebbing, 1907 in Australian waters. In the *Eriopisa* group *Victoriopisa australiensis* (Chilton, 1923) is redescribed and illustrated. A second species, *Victoriopisa marina* n.sp., is described from estuarine and marine habitats in New South Wales and Victoria. In the *Melita* group *Dulichella australis* (Haswell, 1879a) is redescribed based on syntype material and *D. pacifica* n.sp. is described based on collections from the Great Barrier Reef, the southwestern Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. *Melita ophiocola* n.sp. is described from Port Jackson, living in association with the brittlestar *Ophioneis schayeri*.

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