

***Haplodendron buzwilsoni* gen. nov., sp. nov., the first record of
Haplomunnidae from the southern Indo-Pacific
(Isopoda: Asellota)**

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ABSTRACT

A new genus and a new species, *Haplodendron buzwilsoni*, from the southeastern Australian mid bathyal are described. This is the first record of the family in the Southern Hemisphere Indo-Pacific. Diagnostic characters of the new genus are compared with those of other genera in the family. The possible significance of the joint possession, between the new genus and *Dendrotion* (Dendrotiidae), of a stalk carrying the antennulae and antennae is discussed. New observations on male reproductive structures are made.

Key words. Isopoda, Asellota, Haplomunnidae, *Haplodendron*, Pacific, Australia

INTRODUCTION

Cunha & Wilson (2003) reviewed the history, classification, distribution and inferred biology of species in the deep-sea asellote family Haplomunnidae, and provided additional information on a previously described Atlantic species of *Thylakogaster* Wilson & Hessler. They placed monotypic *Aryballurops* Gamô from Japan in synonymy of *Haplomunna* Richardson. Their survey shows that the family ranges from 100 m depth in the Mediterranean and around the Iberian coasts (*Munella* Bonnier) to well over 6000 m off Japan (*Haplomunna*). Sixteen of 17 species (nine described, eight possibly undescribed; Cunha & Wilson 2003, table 1) were found exclusively below 1000 m. Cunha & Wilson (2003, table 1 and fig. 2) show that Haplomunnidae have been found in the Mediterranean, North and South Atlantic, north-eastern Pacific and Japan. They did, however, signal the presence in southeastern Australia of a new species in a possibly new genus, based on information provided by the present author. The new genus and species is described below.