



Megaluropidae*

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* *In*: Lowry, J.K. & Myers, A.A. (Eds) (2009) Benthic Amphipoda (Crustacea: Peracarida) of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. *Zootaxa*, 2260, 1–930.

Abstract

This is the first record of the family Megaluropidae in Australian waters. *Gibberosus udarus* **sp. nov.** is described here from Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Megaluropidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new species, *Gibberosus udarus*

Introduction

Megaluropids are sediment-dwelling amphipods that recline in an inverted position, with their legs and antennae projecting from the sediment surface (Barnard *et al.* 1988). Previously, megaluropids were known from eastern and western Africa (Schellenberg 1925; Ledoyer 1968, 1975), the eastern Pacific (J.L. Barnard 1969; Thomas & Barnard 1986; Ortiz & Lalana, 2002) and the Caribbean Sea (McKinney 1980; Thomas & Barnard 1986). This new species extends the distribution of the Megaluropidae to Australia. *Gibberosus udarus* **sp. nov.** is the sixth species described in the genus. *Gibberosus* is now recorded from the Caribbean, *G. myersi* (McKinney, 1980); California, *G. falciformis* (J.L. Barnard, 1969), *G. devaneyi* Thomas & Barnard, 1986); Pacific Panama *G. coibaensis* Ortiz & Lalana, 2002; Nigeria, *G. longimerus* (Schellenberg, 1925) and the Great Barrier Reef, Australia, *G. udarus* **sp. nov.**

Materials and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) of the megaluropid genera and species of the world. Material was hand-collected on scuba and snorkel. All material is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM) and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Museum (GCRL), Ocean Springs Mississippi, U.S.A. A set of colour plates, a list of standard abbreviations and detailed station data is available in Lowry & Myers (2009). A CD (*Benthic Amphipoda (Crustacea: Peracarida) of the Great Barrier Reef: Interactive Keys*) is available with the book or the keys can be accessed at the crustacea.net website.