



Melphidippidae*

CHARLES OLIVER COLEMAN

Humboldt-University, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Abteilung Sammlungen, D-10099 Berlin, Germany.
(oliver.coleman@mfn-berlin.de)

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Abstract

Melphisana madagascarensis Ledoyer, 1984, previously found in Madagascar and New Caledonia is redescribed from the Great Barrier Reef.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Melphidippidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, *Melphisana madagascarensis*

Introduction

The Melphidippidae are an interesting amphipod taxon. They have an “upside down” body posture, in which the animal’s ventral body side faces upwards, held by the dorsally directed pereopods. In this way these amphipods feed on small suspended food particles that are collected from the water current with the first gnathopods and the antennae (Enequist 1949).

Melphisana madagascarensis was described by Ledoyer (1984) from New Caledonia and (1986) from Madagascar. His Madagascar material became the holotype and the New Caledonia specimen the paratype.

Materials and methods

Material was hand-collected on scuba and is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005). A set of colour plates, a list of standard abbreviations and detailed station data is available in Lowry & Myers (2009). Illustrations were made using the methods described in Coleman (2003, 2006). 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.