



Podoceridae*

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Abstract

The genus *Podocerus* from the Great Barrier Reef is examined. Six species are described of which two are new to science. All comprise new records for Australia. A seventh species previously recorded from the reef was not found during this survey.

Key words: Amphipoda, Podoceridae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new species, *Podocerus brasiliensis*, *Podocerus casuarinensis*, *Podocerus chelonophilus*, *Podocerus crenulatus*, *Podocerus laevis*, *Podocerus talegus talegus*, *Podocerus uncinatus*

Introduction

The Podoceridae are a family of marine corophiidean amphipods, distinguished by their rectangular head (Myers & Lowry 2003), and dorsoventrally flattened urosome, of which urosomite 1 is at least twice as long as, and not coalesced with urosomite 2. According to Barnard *et al.* (1988), podocerids are typically known to occur in dense hydroid masses and among the fouling masses created by other amphipods. Like other caprelloids, they are efficient climbers of algae and sedentary animals (Myers & Lowry 2003), and position themselves at the highest possible position in order to filter feed, gaining first choice of food particles that sweep past in the current. Although they lack silk glands in their pereopods and thus do not have the ability to build tubes, they often occupy the vacated tubes of other corophiideans (Barnard *et al.* 1988).

Currently, there are eight recognised genera worldwide. Of these, four are known to occur in Australia — *Podocerus* Leach, 1814; *Laetmatophilus* Bruzelius, 1859; *Leipsuropus* Stebbing, 1899; and *Cyrtophium* Dana, 1852. The latter three are temperate water genera and were not recorded in the present study. They have, thus far, only been recorded from the coasts of Victoria and New South Wales as far north as Port Jackson.

The current study recorded six species, all belonging to the genus *Podocerus*. All species constitute new records for Australia, two of which are new to science. A seventh species previously recorded from the reef, *Podocerus laevis* (Haswell, 1885) was not collected during this survey, and is here considered to be unidentifiable.

Materials and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the caprelloid world genera and