



## The family Aristiidae (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Lysianassoidea) in Australian waters

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### Abstract

The lysianassoid amphipod family Aristiidae is reported from Australian waters for the first time. Two new genera and seven new species are described: *Aristias eden* **sp. nov.**; *A. gomoni* **sp. nov.**; *A. nowra* **sp. nov.**; *A. otway* **sp. nov.**; *A. poorei* **sp. nov.**; *Memana sarda* **gen. nov., sp. nov.**; and *Pratinas ludmilla* **gen. nov. sp. nov.**

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Aristiidae, Australia, new genus, new species, taxonomy, *Aristias*, *Memana*, *Pratinas*

### Introduction

The lysianassoid amphipod family Aristiidae is a world-wide group of about 30 species not previously reported from Australian waters. The geographically closest records are those of *Aristias tropicus* Schellenberg, 1938 from Papua New Guinea, *A. thio* Lowry & Stoddart, 1994 and *A. uokonia* Lowry & Stoddart, 1994 both from New Caledonia and an unnamed species of *Aristias* from New Zealand (Rainer 1981). In this paper we describe seven new species in the genera *Aristias* Boeck, 1871, *Memana* **gen. nov.** and *Pratinas* **gen. nov.** All but one of the new taxa come from south-eastern Australia.

Aristiids are often reported as associates of other marine invertebrates such as anemones, ascidians, brachiopods and sponges (see Lowry & Stoddart 1997: 13 and references cited therein). The material studied in the present report was collected mainly by epibenthic sleds, trawls and a box corer and evidence of associations was usually lost in the collecting process. However *A. gomoni* **sp. nov.** was considered by the collector to be associated with anemones. *Aristias eden* **sp. nov.** has been collected in a sample with many sponges. *Pratinas ludmilla* **sp. nov.** was considered by the original collector to be possibly associated with the encrusting ascidian *Didemnum psammatoide*. It has also been found in association with individually-collected gorgonaceans, *Echinogorgia* spp. and *Rumphella aggregata*.

### Material and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the aristiid species of the world. Material is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM); Museum Victoria, Melbourne (MV) and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin (NTMAG). The maxilla 1 setal-tooth arrangements follow the standard arrangement set out in Lowry & Stoddart (1995: fig. 25) and used subsequently by Lowry & Stoddart (1997). The bold parts of the descriptions are diagnostic characters which distinguish each taxon in at least two respects from every other taxon. Standard abbreviations on the plates are: A, antenna; C, coxa; E, epistome; EP, epimeron; G, gnathopod; H, head; MD, mandible; MP, maxilliped; MX, maxilla; P, pereopod; T, telson; U, uropod.