

Review of the deep-water asellote genus *Notopais* Hodgson, 1910 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Munnopsididae) with description of three new species from the south-western Pacific

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Abstract

The munnopsidid genus *Notopais* Hodgson, 1910 is taken out of synonymy with *Echinozone* Sars, 1897. The type species *Notopais spicata* Hodgson, 1910 and *Notopais quadrispinosa* (Beddard, 1886) are redescribed and three new species described: *Notopais beddardi* n. sp. collected from Antarctica at a depth of less than 37 metres; *Notopais minya* n. sp. collected from the south-eastern Australian continental slope between the depths of 429–466 metres; and *Notopais zealandica* n. sp. collected from the Chatham Rise between the depths of 1386–1640 metres, off the south-eastern New Zealand coast. *Notopais* is distinguished from *Echinozone* by three defining characters: the flattened appearance of the ventral side of the cephalon, the presence of pedestal setae on the pereonites and antenna 2 article 1 with produced distolateral angle with prominent spine and distal robust seta. This genus is exclusively found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known from Antarctica and the south-western Pacific.

Key words: Isopoda, Munnopsididae, *Notopais*, Antarctica, Pacific, deep-sea, taxonomy, New Zealand, Australia

Introduction

Notopais Hodgson, 1910 was erected to include the single female specimen of *Notopais spicatus* Hodgson, 1910 which, due to its lack of natatory pereopods was unable to be placed in any existing genus. *Notopais* was placed in the family Munnopsididae Lilljeborg, 1864, which also contained the similar genera *Pseudarachna* Sars, 1897, *Aspidarachna* Sars, 1897, *Echinozone* Sars, 1897 and *Ilyarachna* Sars, 1897. Vanhöffen (1914) later synonymised the monotypic *Notopais* with *Pseudarachna* based on the broadened state of pereopods 5 and 6.