

***Edotia tangaroa* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Isopoda: Idoteidae) from the western Ross Sea, Antarctica**

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Abstract

Edotia tangaroa sp. nov. is described from the western Ross Sea, Antarctica, the first record of the genus from that region. It is characterised by the dorsal ornamentation, consisting of numerous small, blunt tubercular, structures from the head to the tip of pleotelson, as well as short, blunt dorsal spines on basis of pereopods 1–7. Antenna 1 is slightly longer and more robust than antenna 2. An annotated species list is provided.

Key words: Ross Sea, Southern Ocean, taxonomy, Valvifera, Idoteidae, *Edotia*

Introduction

Edotia Guérin-Méneville, 1844 is a predominantly Southern Hemisphere genus, with six of the eighteen species known from the Northern Hemisphere. Only two species are from warm-water habitats, with most recorded from temperate to cold-water environments (see species list). The Southern Ocean, with seven species, appears to have the greatest diversity. *Edotia tangaroa* sp. nov. is the nineteenth species described for the genus and the first record from the Ross Sea and Pacific sector of Antarctica.

Methods

Specimens were collected during the 2004 ‘BIOROSS’ expedition with RV *Tangaroa* to the western Ross Sea. Two-hundred samples were taken using heavy-duty, 2 cm mesh ‘epibenthic sledges’. During the 19th Antarctic expedition with RV *Italica* to the Ross Sea in February 2004 an additional 18 samples were taken along a latitudinal transect between