



## Type and non-type specimens of *Aegla* (Decapoda: Anomura: Aegliidae) housed in the Museo de La Plata, Argentina

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### Abstract

The present contribution deals with the type and non-type material of the species of *Aegla* (Decapoda: Anomura: Aegliidae) deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of Museo de La Plata, Argentina. One hundred and thirty-four lots are included, of which 10 lots are type specimens. The material examined includes 11 of the 13 species known from Argentina. Among the studied lots, those examined by Ringuelet (1948, 1960) and by Bond-Buckup & Buckup (1994) stand out. Also, several lots from different regions of Argentina were identified. Type specimens examined were compared with the original descriptions; photographs of the specimens are given in the present report. For each lot the following information is provided: georeferenced locality of collection, collector and collecting date, bibliographical references, category, number of collection according to the rules of the Museo de La Plata, label data (precise transcription), remarks and map of the locations.

**Key words:** Catalogue, *Aegla* spp., Museo de La Plata Collection

### Introduction

The species of *Aegla* Leach, 1820, included in the monotypic endemic family Aegliidae, are the most abundant and widely distributed freshwater decapod crustaceans in South America. They occur in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay (Bond-Buckup & Buckup 1994).

The first contribution which revealed the diversity of the group was the monograph on the *Aegla* genus by W. Schmitt (1942). In that report, which is still considered a major taxonomic reference, 13 new species and 2 subspecies were described. Since then, many authors have contributed to the study of the diversity of Aegliidae. Among them, R. Ringuelet, who specially referred to the species from Argentina (1948a, b; 1949a–c; 1960a, b), E. Lopretto (1978a, b; 1979; 1980a, b; 1981), Bond-Buckup & Buckup (1994), Schuldt *et al.* (1988) and Giri & Loy (2008), who made important contributions to the systematic and morphological knowledge of the genus in Argentina. Viau *et al.* (2006) made contributions to the reproductive biology of *Aegla uruguayana*.

Bond-Buckup *et al.* (2008) recognized 63 species in the Neotropical region, most of them with narrow distributions. Of these species currently recognized, 13 are from Argentina of which 7 are endemic. However, the number of species will probably enlarge with increasing sampling in temperate and subtropical South America. Due to their narrow distributions and the degradation of the freshwater habitats that they occupy, *Aegla* spp. are significant species for conservation.

The present contribution deals with type and non-type *Aegla* spp. deposited at the Invertebrate Collection of Museo de La Plata (MLP), Argentina. The collection includes 13 nominal taxons. Many of the studied lots were labeled by W. Schmitt and studied by R. Ringuelet. The purpose of this paper is to present updated information on the *Aegla* spp. housed at Museo de La Plata. Maps illustrating localities and photographs of the type specimens are included.