



***Nyctobadistes* gen. nov. (Isopoda: Asellota: Munnopsidae), a new genus from Tasmanian waters, Australia, with the description of a new species**

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Abstract

A new genus and new species of Munnopsidae Lilljeborg, 1864 is described. *Nyctobadistes* **gen. nov.** is represented by a single species, *Nyctobadistes hamatus* **sp. nov.** and was collected from off Tasmania, south-eastern Australia. *Nyctobadistes* **gen. nov.** is similar to *Bathybadistes* Hessler and Thistle, 1975, however, it can be distinguished from this genus by the combination of: the lack of apical setae on the dorsal body spines; the lack of lateral extensions on the natasomal pereonites; the slender carpus of at least pereopod 6; and the anterolateral margins of the pleon lack a spine and apical seta.

Key words: Munnopsidae, *Nyctobadistes*, new genus, new species, Tasmania, Australia

Introduction

The first species from the munnopsid subfamily Ilyarachninae Hansen, 1916 to be described from the south-west Pacific was *Ilyarachna kermadecensis* Wolff, 1962, which was collected from three stations in the Kermadec Trench, north of New Zealand, at depths between 4540–7000 metres (Wolff 1962). Since then, a total of nine species from four genera have been described from the south-west Pacific, namely waters surrounding Australia and New Zealand (see Merrin 2004; Merrin 2006; Merrin & Bruce 2006; Merrin 2009; Merrin *et al.* 2009). *Nyctobadistes* **gen. nov.** is therefore the sixth genus to be described from these waters and the eighth genus to be described for the subfamily.

Nyctobadistes hamatus **sp. nov.** is described from material collected from off the Freycinet Peninsula, Tasmania, during Museum Victoria's SLOPE expeditions of south-eastern Australia.

Material and methods

The description and illustrations are based on the type material and are indicated in the figure captions and text. Specimens were drawn using a Nikon Optiphot-2 compound microscope and a Zeiss Stemi SV 11 dissecting microscope, both fitted with a camera lucida. Species descriptions were composed using the computer program DELTA (Dallwitz *et al.* 1999). The maximum length and widths of segments were used to calculate ratios, unless otherwise stated in the text. With antennal articles, the most basal article is referred to as article 1, the next article as article 2 and so on. Directional information regarding pereopods follows Brusca *et al.* (1995).

Abbreviations used in text: SS — simple seta/e, RS — robust seta/e, NMV — Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.