



New Leptocheliidae (Crustacea: Tanaidacea: Tanaidomorpha) from Australian seagrass and macro-algal habitats, and a redescription of the poorly-known *Leptochelia ignota* from Sydney Harbour

GRAHAM J. EDGAR

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252–49, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

E-mail: g.edgar@utas.edu.au

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Abstract

Australia possesses a rich fauna of leptocheliid tanaidaceans (Crustacea: Tanaidacea: Leptocheliidae), including many species that currently remain undescribed. As an addition to the 13 leptocheliid species known to date from Australian waters, a new genus (*Poorea* n. gen.) and five new species collected from shallow macrophyte habitats are diagnosed (*Parakonarus robertsoni* n. sp., *Leptochelia evansi* n. sp., *Leptochelia gadgeti* n. sp., *Poorea wrighti* n. sp. and *Poorea johannesi* n. sp.). *Leptochelia nobbi* is transferred to the genus *Poorea*, *Leptochelia fairgo* to *Parakonarus*, and a redescription provided for the enigmatic tanaidacean *Leptochelia ignota* on the basis of specimens collected near the Sydney type locality. A key is provided to Australian leptocheliid species.

Key words: Tanaidaceans, crustaceans, Leptocheliidae, *Leptochelia*, *Parakonarus*, *Poorea*, systematics, new species, new genus, seagrass, Australia