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Epimeria rafaeli sp. nov. (Crustacea, Amphipoda, Epimeriidae) from Western Australia

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Abstract

Members of the family Epimeriidae are reported in Australian waters for the first time and *Epimeria rafaeli* sp. nov. is described from deep water just south of the Abrolhos Island, Western Australia.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Epimeriidae, biodiversity, taxonomy, new species, Western Australia, Indian Ocean

Introduction

The family Epimeriidae Boeck, 1871 currently contains six genera: *Actinacanthus* Stebbing, 1888; *Epimeria* Costa, 1851; *Metepimeria* Schellenberg, 1931; *Paramphithoe* Bruzelius, 1859; and *Uschakoviella* Gurjanova, 1955.

Epimeria, the most widespread and speciose genus, contains 53 species (Table 1): 26 in Antarctica (De Broyer *et al.* 2007, Coleman 2007, Lörz 2008, Lörz & Coleman 2009, Lörz *et al.* 2007, 2011); 13 in the North and South Pacific Ocean (Winfield *et al.* 2013, Lörz & Coleman, 2014); 11 in the North and South Atlantic Ocean (Norway [G.O. Sars, 1895]), including one in the North Polar Sea and two in the Mediterranean Sea (Stephensen 1938, Christodoulou *et al.* 2013); two in the Indian Ocean (Ledoyer 1986, this paper); and one from the subantarctic Macquarie Ridge (Lörz 2012).

Epimeriids have never been reported in waters close to the Australian Mainland. In 2005 the first specimens from deep water were collected just south of the Abrolhos Island, Western Australia. We describe the new species, *Epimeria rafaeli*, here.

TABLE 1. Annotated list of 53 *Epimeria* species.

Antarctica (26 species)

<i>E. angelikae</i> Lörz & Linse, 2011	Weddell Sea, West Antarctica, 850–870 m
<i>E. annabellae</i> Coleman, 1994	Weddell Sea, West Antarctica, 240–254 m
<i>E. extensa</i> Andres, 1985	Antarctic Peninsula, Adélie Coast, East and West Antarctica, 170–190 m
<i>E. georgiana</i> Schellenberg, 1931	South Georgia, South Shetland Islands, Weddell Sea, West Antarctica, 75–928 m
<i>E. grandirostris</i> (Chevreux, 1912)	Weddell Sea, South Shetland Islands, Antarctic Peninsula, Adélie Coast, Davis Sea, East and West Antarctica, 68–634 m
<i>E. heldi</i> Coleman, 1998b	South Shetland Islands, West Antarctica, 235 m
<i>E. inermis</i> Walker, 1903	Adélie Coast, Bransfield Strait, Falkland Islands, Ross Sea, South Shetland Islands, Weddell Sea, East and West Antarctica, 15–462 m
<i>E. intermedia</i> Schellenberg, 1931	South Georgia, West Antarctica, 75–273 m
<i>E. larsi</i> Lörz, 2009	Western Ross Sea, West Antarctica, 1954–1990 m
<i>E. macrodonta</i> Walker, 1906	Ross Sea, Adélie Coast, Davis Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait, Marguerite Bay, Oates Coast, Palmer Archipelago, South Shetland Islands,

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