



Expanathuridae (Crustacea: Isopoda) from the Australian region

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Abstract

The Expanathuridae Poore, 2001 comprise seven genera all represented in the Australian region or south-western Pacific: *Coralanthura* Poore & Kensley, 1981; *Eisothistos* Haswell, 1884; *Expanathura* Wägele, 1981; *Heptanthura* Kensley, 1978; *Minyanthura* Kensley, 1982; *Panathura* Barnard, 1925; and *Rhiganthura* Kensley, 1978. Eleven new species are described from Australia and nearby seas: *Eisothistos bellonae*, *E. corinellae*, *E. macquariensis*, *E. nowrae*, *E. victoriae*, *Heptanthura kensleyi*, *Panathura baudini*, *P. hamelini*, *P. hicksi*, *P. molyneuxi* and *Rhiganthura capricornica*. Keys to species of *Expanathura* and *Panathura* are given.

Key words: Isopoda, Anthuroidea, Expanathuridae, *Coralanthura*, *Eisothistos*, *Expanathura*, *Heptanthura*, Australia, Coral Sea

Introduction

This study continues our series on the anthuroidean isopods of Australia (see Poore & Lew Ton, 1988a, b; Poore, 2001 for most recent references). For many years these isopods have been referred to the suborder Anthuridea but their shared features with Cymothoidae and similar families have been long recognised (Brusca & Wilson, 1991). New studies by Poore and A. Brandt show that the group can no longer be treated as a suborder but best is a monophyletic superfamily within the suborder Cymothoidea Wägele, 1989.

Anthuroid isopods are mainly marine animals of sedimentary or cryptic habitats. They are recognised immediately by their elongate cylindrical body form, absence of expanded coxal plates, and a uropodal exopod that attaches proximally on the peduncle and is held more or less over the telson. Here we deal with enigmatic taxa now belonging to the recently established family Expanathuridae Poore, 2001. Expanathurids are distinguished from the Anthuridae which they superficially resemble by the absence of statocysts, usually free pleonites, and the primitive condition of the maxilliped (presence of an endite and