

A review of the hyperiidean amphipod superfamily Lycaeopsoidea Bowman & Gruner, 1973 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Hyperiidea)

WOLFGANG ZEIDLER

South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia 5000
(zeidler.wolfgang@saugov.sa.gov.au)

Abstract

A taxonomic review of the superfamily Lycaeopsoidea is presented. The superfamily currently consists of one family represented by one genus with two species. A detailed morphological examination of many specimens, of both species, supports the superfamily status, based on the extreme sexual dimorphism and characters of the antennae and mouthparts unique to the Hyperiidea. In males the peduncle and first flagellar articles of the first antennae form a triangular structure with the remainder of the flagellum inserted subterminally. Contrary to recent literature, second antennae are present in both sexes, although much reduced in size, consisting of five articles. The mandible is reduced to an elongate bifid pincer, without a palp in females but in males the palp usually consists of one elongate article, resulting from the fusion of the three articles normally found in the Amphipoda. New information and a key is provided to separate the two closely related species.

Key words: Amphipoda, Hyperiidea, Lycaeopsoidea, Lycaeopsidae, *Lycaeopsis*, review, taxonomy

Introduction

Bowman and Gruner (1973) proposed the superfamily Lycaeopsoidea to accommodate the family Lycaeopsidae because they believed that it differed significantly from other families of the suborder Hyperiidea, particularly in the extreme sexual dimorphism. This is supported by new information, presented here, gained from a detailed examination of large numbers of specimens, particularly of the antennae and mouthparts.

Females and juvenile males of the two currently recognised species are difficult to distinguish and new information, together with a key, to separate them is presented.