

Three new ostracod species from coastal Australian waters (Crustacea: Ostracoda: Myodocopa: Cyndroleberididae)

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Abstract

Three new species of Cyndroleberididae are described: *Parasterope gamurru* from Lizard Island (Queensland), *Diasterope wirraka* from Bass Strait (Victoria), and *Cyndroleberis marrayin* from Sandy Point (Victoria). This is the first record of species of *Cyndroleberis* and *Diasterope* from Australia, and the first record of a species of *Parasterope* from Queensland. Juvenile instars of species of *Cyndroleberis* are compared in order to assign appropriate stages to those of *Cyndroleberis marrayin*.

Key words: Ostracoda, Myodocopa, Cyndroleberididae, *Diasterope*, *Cyndroleberis*, *Parasterope*, new species, Australia

Introduction

The Cyndroleberididae is a marine ostracod family defined principally by the presence of gills. Other defining morphological features are the scythe-shaped coxale endite on the mandible and the setal combs on the maxilla (fourth limb) and fifth limb. Species are found in all oceans, from shallow waters to depths of 4500 m. There are currently 216 species in 32 genera (Syme & Poore, in press).

Large monographs cover the cyndroleberidid species of particular regions (e.g. Kornicker, 1975, 1986, 1994; Kornicker & Poore, 1996). A systematic revision of the Cyndroleberididae is in progress, and the research to date has revealed several new species, which are described here. New species add not only taxonomic information; they are also potentially informative about the ecology of particular ecosystems and the evolution of broader taxonomic groups. The description of new species of the Cyndroleberididae together with a systematic revision will facilitate investigation of these questions.

It is anticipated that the systematic revision of the Cyndroleberididae will alter the taxonomic arrangement and diagnoses of some genera. Until this is clarified, the new spe-