



A revision of *Pseudopleonexes* Conlan, 1982 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Ampithoidae) with description of three new species from Australia

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Abstract

Pseudopleonexes is a small genus of ampithoid amphipods previously known from only two southern hemisphere species, *P. lessoniae* (Hurley, 1954) and *P. sheardi* Just, 2002. *Pseudopleonexes* is revised based on type material and other collections from around Australia. Diagnoses and a key to the species are provided. Three new southern Australian species are described: *P. burney* **sp. nov.**, *P. justi* **sp. nov.** and *P. nexis* **sp. nov.**

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Pseudopleonexes

Introduction

Pseudopleonexes Conlan, 1982 is an amphipod genus of the family Ampithoidae endemic to Australian and New Zealand waters. Ampithoids are primarily algal-dwellers and species of *Pseudopleonexes* have been obtained primarily from species of brown algae, such as *Ecklonia*, *Sargassum* and *Cystophora* species. They have also been collected from seagrass and the algae, *Caulocystis uvifera* and *Hormosira* sp. *Pseudopleonexes* was erected based on a phenetic analysis of ampithoid genera (Conlan 1982). Barnard & Karaman (1991) and Poore & Lowry (1997) each presented generic diagnoses of the then monotypic genus. The type species, *P. lessoniae* (Hurley, 1954), was described from Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand. More recently, Just (2002) described a second species, *P. sheardi*, comprehensively reviewed all diagnostic characters and further expanded the generic diagnosis, resulting in a more robust separation from other ampithoid genera.

Pseudopleonexes is revised based on reexamination of available type material and