



Description of *Metaprotella haswelliana* (Mayer, 1882) (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Caprellidae) from Western Australia with designation of a neotype

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Abstract

Metaprotella haswelliana (Mayer, 1882), the type species of *Metaprotella*, was originally described from Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia and was reported from there in literature published between 1882 and 2003. However, the type specimens are lost and no further specimens could be found in recent surveys in New South Wales waters. The only current records are from Albany, Western Australia and from Port Phillip Bay, Victoria. Based on the materials from Western Australia, the poorly known type species, *Metaprotella haswelliana* is redescribed, a neotype is assigned, and the genus *Metaprotella* Mayer, 1890 is redefined.

Key words: Amphipoda, taxonomy, *Metaprotella*, *Metaprotella haswelliana*, Western Australia

Introduction

During a comparative study of the species diversity of the caprelloid amphipods between the Japanese and New South Wales coast of Australia, we tried to find *Metaprotella haswelliana* (Mayer, 1882), the type species of *Metaprotella* Mayer, 1890. *Metaprotella haswelliana* (Mayer, 1882) was originally described from Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia and subsequently reported from New South Wales by Mayer (1903) and Haswell (1885). Regrettably no specimens of *M. haswelliana* could be found during field surveys along the coast of New South Wales conducted during the 1995/96 austral summer, nor from the extensive crustacean collection of the Australian Museum (Springthorpe & Lowry, 1994; Takeuchi & Lowry, unpubl.). Nevertheless, *M. haswelliana* was found in the holdings of the Western Australian Museum (WAM), collected from Emu Point, Albany, Western Australia. Subsequently, two small males collected from Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, were found in the holdings of the Australian Museum (AM). In this study, we redescribe *Metaprotella haswelliana* based on these newly found specimens and rediagnose the genus *Metaprotella* Mayer, 1890. The original description by Mayer (1882) lacks details present in modern taxonomic descriptions. *Metaprotella haswelliana* no longer occurs in the type locality and the available material is known only from southern and western Australia. Therefore, we designate a neotype for *M. haswelliana* to fix the identity of the species and because the species is the type species of *Metaprotella*.

Methods

The taxonomic descriptions presented in this paper were generated from a DELTA (Dallwitz, 2005) database of world caprelloid genera and species. The setal formulae (1-x-y-1 or 1-x-1) used to describe the setae on