

# ZOOTAXA

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**New species of *Mesamphisopus*, an endemic South African  
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## New species of *Mesamphisopus*, an endemic South African freshwater isopod genus (Isopoda: Phreatoicidea: Mesamphisopidae)

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### Abstract

Isopoda of the suborder Phreatoicidea are represented in Africa by a single genus, *Mesamphisopus*, including four known species (*M. abbreviatus*, *M. capensis*, *M. depressus* and *M. penicillatus*). Six new species are described here, i.e. *Mesamphisopus albidus* n. sp., *M. baccatus* n. sp., *M. kensleyi* n. sp., *M. paludosus* n. sp., *M. setosus* n. sp., and *M. tsitsikamma* n. sp. These taxa are distinguished from each other and from the existing species using a combination of features of the antennae, mouthparts, pleopods, pleotelson and uropods, and by colouration and setation. The distinguishing features and presumed affinities of the species are presented and discussed. A dichotomous key to the species of the genus is also provided. With recent cladistic analyses suggesting that re-arrangements are necessary at the familial level, the removal of *Eophreatoicus* resulting in a monotypic Mesamphisopidae is considered.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Isopoda, Phreatoicidea, Mesamphisopidae, Western Cape, South Africa, *Mesamphisopus*