



Ampeliscidae*

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Abstract

Three species of *Ampelisca* are described: two are new (*Ampelisca dingaal* **sp. nov.** and *Ampelisca jiigurru* **sp. nov.**), and the third presents a range extension of *Ampelisca dimboola*.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Ampeliscidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new species, *Ampelisca dingaal*, *Ampelisca jiigurru*, *Ampelisca dimboola*

Introduction

The Ampeliscidae Costa, 1857 are distributed worldwide. Ampeliscids are often the dominant amphipod group in fine sediment areas, where they live in infaunal tubes, which they construct themselves from ‘amphipod silk’ and sediment, and feed on organic detritus filtered from the sediment (Barnard 1960, 1969; Dickinson 1982, 1983).

Only one comprehensive evaluation of Australian ampeliscids has been carried out (Lowry & Poore 1985). Prior to their work, only two species of *Ampelisca* were known from Australian waters. Lowry & Poore (1985) reviewed collections from south-eastern Australia (southern Queensland to Tasmania and South Australia) and described 15 new species within *Ampelisca*, *Byblis* and *Haploops*. Since then, no new ampeliscid species have been recorded from Australia.

Two new species of *Ampelisca* (*Ampelisca dingaal* **sp. nov.** and *A. jiigurru* **sp. nov.**) are described here, and a range extension of *Ampelisca dimboola* Lowry & Poore, 1985, is given.

Materials and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz, 2005) of the ampeliscid genera and species of the world. Material was hand-collected on scuba and is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). A set of colour plates, a list of standard abbreviations and detailed station data is available in Lowry & Myers (2009). A CD (*Benthic Amphipoda (Crustacea: Peracarida) of the Great Barrier Reef: Interactive Keys*) is available with the book or the keys can be accessed at the crustacea.net website.