



The genus *Microrchestia* (Amphipoda: Talitridae) in eastern Australia

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Abstract

Microrchestia is reported from Australia for the first time and two new species are described, *M. bousfieldi* **sp. nov.** from northern New South Wales and *M. watsonae* **sp. nov.** from the northern Great Barrier Reef. The new genus *Cochinorchestia* is established for *Microrchestia notabilis* (K.H. Barnard), originally described from the Cochin area in south-eastern India.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Talitridae, eastern Australia, south-eastern India, taxonomy, new genus, new species, *Cochinorchestia*, *Microrchestia bousfieldi*, *Microrchestia watsonae*

Introduction

Bousfield (1984) established the genus *Microrchestia* for *Parorchestia macrochela* Bousfield, 1971, known from New Britain in the Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea. He indicated additional species in the genus from Ecuador, Nigeria, Madagascar and south-eastern India. In table 5 he transferred *Parorchestia notabilis* K.H. Barnard, 1935, from south-eastern India and *Parorchestia similis* Bousfield, 1971, from New Britain to *Microrchestia*. As far as we know the other taxa referred to in table 5 have never been described. In this paper we describe a new genus, *Cochinorchestia* for *P. notabilis* K.H. Barnard, 1935, redefine the genus *Microrchestia*, and describe two new species of *Microrchestia* (*M. bousfieldi* and *M. watsonae*) from eastern Australia.

Material and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the talitrid genera and species of the world. All material is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). Abbreviations are: A, antenna; G, gnathopod; gi, gill; UL, upper lip; MD, mandible; LL, lower lip; MX, maxilla; MXP, maxilliped; oo, oostegite; P, pereopod; pl, pleopod; T, telson; U, uropod; f, female; m, male; L, left; R, right.

Talitridae Raphinesque, 1815

Cochinorchestia gen. nov.

Microrchestia Bousfield, 1984: 202 (in part).

Type species. *Parorchestia notabilis* K.H. Barnard, 1935.

Etymology. The generic name uses the geographic name Cochin from the local area and the stem *Orchestia*.