



## Australian and South African conicostomatine amphipods (Amphipoda: Lysianassoidea: Lysianassidae: Conicostomatinae subfam. nov.)

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### Abstract

The new lysianassid subfamily Conicostomatinae is established. All genera in the subfamily are rediagnosed and distribution maps are provided. The new genus *Amphorites* is established for *Amphorites annasona* **sp. nov.**, *Am. hurleyi* (Lowry & Stoddart, 1983) and *Am. pungapunga* (Lowry & Stoddart, 1983). The Australian species *Conicostoma karta* Lowry & Stoddart, 1983 is redescribed with many new distribution records. Three new Australian species are described: *Ocosingo yatala* **sp. nov.**; *Scolopostoma darwinensis* **sp. nov.**; and *Sc. norah* **sp. nov.** The South African species reported as *Stomacontion prionoplax* by Griffiths (1974, 1975, 1976) is described as *Scolopostoma keurboomstrandensis* **sp. nov.**

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassidae, Conicostomatinae, Australia, taxonomy, new genus, new species

### Introduction

Conicostomatines are a small group (6 genera and 16 species) of lysianassid amphipods. Four genera (*Acontiosstoma* Stebbing, 1888, *Amphorites* **gen. nov.**, *Conicostoma* Lowry & Stoddart, 1983 and *Stomacontion* Stebbing, 1899) are generally known from post-gondwanan fragments such as South Africa, southern South America, southern New Zealand, southern Australia and the subantarctic islands of the Southern Ocean (Fig. 1). Two genera (*Ocosingo* J.L. Barnard, 1964 and *Scolopostoma* Lowry & Stoddart, 1983) have more widespread distributions. *Ocosingo* occurs in the Kurile Islands in the north-western North Pacific Ocean, the Baja California Peninsula in the tropical eastern North Pacific Ocean, on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the eastern Indian Ocean, on the South Island of New Zealand and in eastern and southern Australia. *Scolopostoma* has an Indo-West Pacific distribution from South Africa, Madagascar and the Suez Canal in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea; to Singapore, Bali and tropical Australia; and New South Wales and Norfolk Island in the Tasman Sea.

Conicostomatines have often been reported in association with other invertebrates. J.L. Barnard (1969a) reported *Ocosingo borlus* J.L. Barnard, 1969a as abundant among ascidians and sometimes among sponges. Tzvetkova (1987) reported *Ocosingo kussakini* Tzvetkova, 1987 among sea urchins, sponges, bryozoans, hydroids and ascidians. Lowry & Stoddart (1983) reported *Acontiosstoma tuberculata* Lowry & Stoddart, 1983 from a sponge, *Ac. marionis* Stebbing, 1888, *Amphorites hurleyi* (Lowry & Stoddart, 1983) and *Am. pungapunga* (Lowry & Stoddart, 1983) in association with bryozoans and sponges and *Stomacontion pepinii* (Stebbing, 1888) among sponges and tunicates. Rauschert (1997) recorded *St. bulbosus* Rauschert, 1997 among sponges, hydroids, bryozoans and ascidians. *Scolopostoma darwinensis* **sp. nov.** is recorded below from encrusting ascidians and sponges. The inner plate of the maxilliped in this group is very variable and probably reflects different feeding strategies. For example in *Ac. marionis* the outer plate of the maxilliped has a blade-like sclerotised margin that might be used for scraping epidermal mucous or slicing through invertebrates such as sponges.

The group was first recognised by Lowry & Stoddart (1983) who described a conicostomatid group of lysianassoid amphipods. They stressed that this was an informal group (p. 281: "For this reason we are using informal names.") but apparently the "-id" ending on the group name prompted *Zoological Record* for 1983 to record the new genus *Conicostoma* Lowry & Stoddart, 1983 as being in the Conicostomatidae. However, *Zoological Record*