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Polychaetes and allies of Lizard Island

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This Special Volume of *Zootaxa* has had a long gestation! Way back in 2011, Pat Hutchings was approached by Anne Hoggett, one of the Co-Directors of Lizard Island Research Station which is a facility of the Australian Museum, with the concept of running a polychaete workshop at Lizard Island. Back in 2005, the first Lizard Island taxonomic workshop investigating biodiversity of amphipod crustaceans was run by Jim Lowry of the Australian Museum and Alan Myers of National University of Ireland (Lowry & Myers 2009). This workshop was part of ongoing efforts to describe the fauna of Lizard Island and to populate the Lizard Island Field Guide (<http://lifg.australianmuseum.net.au/Hierarchy.html>).

The idea of Anne's was to take the advantage of the 11th International Polychaete Conference which was to be held at the Australian Museum in August 2013. We expected approximately 150 participants from all over the world. Pat Hutchings and Elena Kupriyanova were part of the organising committee for the conference and Pat was the chair of that committee.



In July 2012, we developed and submitted a proposal for the Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation to support such a workshop. The successful outcome of the application enabled us to invite 16 fellow polychaete researchers from 6 countries (see Ribas & Hutchings 2015, *Zootaxa* 4019) and ranging from graduate students to

established workers. We also invited a professional underwater photographer to help us document the beauty of our favourite animals and a professional cook to ensure our concentration on sampling and sorting. In addition, we had support from the Marine Invertebrates Department to ensure that all collected material was registered in Australian Museum collections. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority issued us the collecting permit in record time.

Not surprisingly, we had very enthusiastic responses to our workshop invitations as we promised to fly people to Lizard Island from Sydney and cover bench fees and all living expenses at Lizard Island Research Station for two weeks. There was a catch—in return we wanted a taxonomic manuscript to be published in *Zootaxa* with open access.

The workshop strengthened good personal and professional relationships within the tight-knit group of participants and was very productive. Some of these participants co-opted other colleagues to work up the material and collaborate on papers. In addition to studying the material collected during the workshop, many delegates examined historical collections held in the AM, lists of which were compiled and sent to all participants and Steve Keable the Collection Manager in Marine Invertebrates was very helpful in organising all these loans. As a result, this volume deals with 285 polychaete taxa (species and unresolved species complexes), including 91 new species and 67 new records.

We thank Eunice Wong, our technical editor and graphic artist, for her painstaking effort to ensure that the papers were in a similar format. Anna Murray registered the material on site, which greatly facilitated the process. Thanks to LIRS co-directors, Lyle Vail and Anne Hoggett for their hospitality and support before, during, and after the workshop. Anne played a critical role in organising all the paperwork for exporting material to the home institutions of the participants. We appreciate the generous support of Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation which made this workshop possible. We are grateful to participants for not only a very enjoyable field trip, but also for preparing their papers on time. Several people who did not attend the workshop have collaborated or published individual papers. We hope that this workshop can be a model for similar workshops on other groups because much of Lizard Island biodiversity remains undocumented.

Pat Hutchings and Elena Kupriyanova, Australian Museum Research Institute, Australian Museum.

References

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