

New sphaeromatids (Crustacea: Isopoda: Sphaeromatidea) from coastal and freshwater habitats in New Zealand

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Abstract

Exosphaeroma waitemata sp. nov. is described from the Waitamata Estuary, Auckland, northern North Island; it is characterised by the setose pereopods and body margins, setose uropod rami with distally acute exopods, and males with coxae 6 posteriorly extended and acute; the species is regarded as *incertae sedis*. A new genus and new species of Sphaeromatidae, *Makarasphaera amnicosa* gen. nov., sp. nov. is described from maritime freshwater streams and seeps from the Wellington and Wairarapa region of the southern North Island of New Zealand. The genus characterised by the thickened ventrolateral margins of pereonite 1, head deeply immersed in pereonite 1, elongate penial processes, short and mesially produced pleopod 1 peduncle, flask-shaped appendix masculina, pleopods 4 and 5 without thickened ridges, pleopod 5 with reduced scale patches, and the pleon with only one short suture running to the poster margin.

Key words: Isopoda, Sphaeromatidae, *Exosphaeroma*, *Makarasphaera*, freshwater, estuaries, New Zealand, Pacific, southwest Pacific

Introduction

Knowledge of the New Zealand sphaeromatid fauna rests with the monograph of Hurley & Jansen (1977) which documented and diagnosed the entire family for New Zealand waters, and the more recent publications of Stephenson & Riley (1997) and Sket & Bruce (2004). There has been no other taxonomic work on New Zealand Sphaeromatidae despite prolific activity on this family in Australia (e.g. Bruce 2003 and references therein), the Caribbean (e.g. Kensley 1984; Kensley & Schotte 1987, 1994; Kensley *et al.* 1997; Wetzer & Bruce 1999) and also the Indian Ocean (see Kensley 2001; Schotte & Kensley 2005). Minor nomenclatural changes to New Zealand species have resulted from recommendations and generic reassignments, notably by Harrison & Holdich (Harrison & Holdich 1984), more recently in Bruce (2003).

Since the publication of Hurley & Jansen (1977) a further 34 sphaeromatid genera have been described world wide, a rate of more than one per year. The criteria for discrim-