

**Xenosellidae, a new family of Janiroidea (Asellota: Isopoda: Crustacea), for *Xenosella coxospinosa* gen. nov., sp. nov., from the marine bathyal of eastern Australia**

JEAN JUST

*Museum of Tropical Queensland, 78-102 Flinders Street, Townsville Queensland 4810, Australia (Hon. Associate, Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia)*  
jeanjust@bigpond.com.au

**ABSTRACT**

A new genus and species of janiroidean Asellota, *Xenosella coxospinosa*, is described from the mid-bathyal slope off the coast of south-eastern Australia. Following a comparison of the new species to several families of broadly similar body shape, with emphasis on monotypic Pleurocopidae, a new family, Xenosellidae, is proposed for the new species. In the course of comparing relevant taxa, the current placements of *Prethura* Kensley in the Santiidae and *Salvatiella* Müller in the Munnidae are rejected. The two genera are considered to be *incertae sedis* within the Asellota superfamily Janiroidea pending further studies.

**Key words.** Isopoda, Asellota, Xenosellidae, *Xenosella*, eastern Australia

**INTRODUCTION**

Exploration of the slope benthos off south-eastern Australia towards the Tasman Sea over the past two decades by Museum Victoria, Melbourne, and the Australian Museum, Sydney, has revealed a high level of diversity and novelty of Isopoda (Poore & Wilson 1993; Poore *et al.* 1994). Works on several families or parts of families of janiroidean Asellota have been published (Brandt 1994, Cohen 1998, Just 1990, 2001a, 2001b, 2003, Just & Wilson 2004, Merrin 2004, Merrin & Poore 2003), and several more are in progress. In this paper a new genus and species, *Xenosella coxospinosa*, is described from the same collections. This species is of considerable interest because it does not fit into existing janiroidean families.