

New species of *Pygolabis* Wilson, 2003 (Isopoda, Tainisopidae, Crustacea) from Western Australia

STEPHEN J. KEABLE & GEORGE D.F. WILSON*

Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010

*(Corresponding author: buzw@austmus.gov.au)

Abstract

Four new isopod species of the hypogean genus *Pygolabis* (family Tainisopidae) are described from the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. The species appear to be restricted to small areas in the ground waters below single or neighbouring creek beds. These species are similar in overall morphology, and are primarily identified using features of the pleotelson, uropods and the shape of the appendix masculina on the male pleopod 2.

Key words: Tainisopidae, *Pygolabis*, Western Australia, hypogean, taxonomy, narrow range endemics

Introduction

The isopod family Tainisopidae was established with the description of an unusual hypogean species *Pygolabis humphreysi* Wilson, 2003. *Pygolabis* species have tong-like uropods (giving them a rather earwig-like appearance), unlike *Tainisopus* Wilson and Ponder, 1992, which has flattened uropods typical of other isopods. Here, we extend the knowledge on this family by describing four new species of *Pygolabis* from the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions in Western Australia.

All species of *Pygolabis* have distributions restricted to ground waters of one or several creek drainages in the Fortescue, Ashburton or Lyons River catchments (Fig. 1). In a few localities, specimens have been collected that were similar to the species described below, but differed in a few features—these are indicated in Figure 1 by “?”. These species are difficult to separate, and fully adult males should be examined to confirm an identification.

Despite similar morphologies among the *Pygolabis* species, preliminary genetic sequences using the cytochrome oxidase subunit I gene (Cara Francis, personal