

A revision of *Pseudopleonexes* Conlan, 1982 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Ampithoidae) with description of three new species from Australia

RACHAEL A. PEART

Marine Invertebrates, Australian Museum, 6 College St., Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia, and School of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management, University of New England, National Marine Science Centre, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450, Australia.

Abstract

Pseudopleonexes is a small genus of ampithoid amphipods previously known from only two southern hemisphere species, *P. lessoniae* (Hurley, 1954) and *P. sheardi* Just, 2002. *Pseudopleonexes* is revised based on type material and other collections from around Australia. Diagnoses and a key to the species are provided. Three new southern Australian species are described: *P. burney* **sp. nov.**, *P. justi* **sp. nov.** and *P. nexis* **sp. nov.**

Keywords: Ampithoidae, Australia, Amphipoda, taxonomy, revision, new species
Pseudopleonexes

Introduction

Pseudopleonexes Conlan, 1982 is an amphipod genus of the family Ampithoidae endemic to Australian and New Zealand waters. Ampithoids are primarily algal-dwellers and species of *Pseudopleonexes* have been obtained primarily from species of brown algae, such as *Ecklonia*, *Sargassum* and *Cystophora* species. They have also been collected from seagrass and the algae, *Caulocystis uvifera* and *Hormosira* sp. *Pseudopleonexes* was erected based on a phenetic analysis of ampithoid genera (Conlan 1982). Barnard & Karaman (1991) and Poore & Lowry (1997) each presented generic diagnoses of the then monotypic genus. The type species, *P. lessoniae* (Hurley, 1954), was described from Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand. More recently, Just (2002) described a second species, *P. sheardi*, comprehensively reviewed all diagnostic characters and further expanded the generic diagnosis, resulting in a more robust separation from other ampithoid genera.

Pseudopleonexes is revised based on reexamination of available type material and