

## The first record of the crustacean isopod genus *Pseudarachna* Sars, 1897 (Isopoda: Asellota: Munnopsidae) from the Southern Hemisphere, with description of a new species from New Zealand

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### Abstract

*Pseudarachna nohinohi* n. sp. from the Challenger Plateau, New Zealand is described. A further two undescribed species are recorded from Australian waters in the Tasman Sea, showing that this formerly monotypic North Atlantic genus is more widely distributed than previously thought. A revised diagnosis of the genus is presented.

**Key words:** Isopoda, Munnopsidae, *Pseudarachna*, Pacific, taxonomy, Tasman Sea

### Introduction

The munnopsid genus *Pseudarachna* was erected by Sars to account for the “anomalous form” (Sars 1897: 142) of the then *Ilyarachna hirsuta* Sars, 1864. The genus has since remained monotypic with a distribution from western Ireland to Denmark (Wolff 1962) and a depth range of 50–478 metres (Svavarsson *et al.* 1993). Material collected from various localities in the Tasman Sea by NIWA, the Australian Museum (Sydney) and by Museum Victoria (Melbourne) has revealed that this genus is present in the Southern Hemisphere.

### Material and methods

The holotype and dissected paratypes were used in the preparation of the description and illustrations and are indicated in the figure captions. Specimens were drawn using a Nikon