



Redescription of *Orthoprotella mayeri* K.H. Barnard, 1916 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Caprellidae) from Cape Province, South Africa and description of *O. berentsae* sp. nov. from New South Wales, Australia

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Abstract

Close examination of *Orthoprotella mayeri* K.H. Barnard, 1916 (*sensu lato*) which has been recorded from South Africa and New South Wales, Australia, revealed that there are two distinct species from Cape Province, South Africa and New South Wales, Australia, respectively. The present paper provides a redescription of *O. mayeri* K.H. Barnard, 1916 (*sensu stricto*) from South Africa and a description of *O. berentsae* sp. nov. from New South Wales, Australia. The two species can be identified based on the morphology of antenna 2, pereonites 6 and 7, and the uropods, although characteristic body somites of both species resemble other species.

Key words: Amphipoda, taxonomy, new species, Caprellidae, *Orthoprotella*, South Africa, New South Wales

Introduction

While modern detailed taxonomic monographs or checklists on the Caprelloidea (Amphipoda) of the northern hemisphere have been continuously published for more than three decades (see McCain 1968; Laubitz 1970, 1972; Arimoto 1976; Vassilenko 1974; Krapp-Schickel 1993; Takeuchi 1999; Guerra-García & Takeuchi 2002), monographic studies of the Caprelloidea in the temperate regions of the southern Hemisphere have only been initiated around 2000 (Guerra-García & Takeuchi 2003; Guerra-García 2003, 2004, 2006). During a comparative study of the species diversity of the caprelloid amphipods in the southern hemisphere, we came across *Orthoprotella mayeri* K.H. Barnard, 1916, originally described from southern Africa. A close comparison of the South African population (based on South African Museum specimens) and the New South Wales population (based on Australian Museum specimens) was conducted. The comparison revealed that distinct differences between two populations exist at species level.

In this paper we redescribe *Orthoprotella mayeri* K.H. Barnard, 1916 (*sensu stricto*) from the Cape Province, South Africa and describe *O. berentsae* sp. nov. from New South Wales.

Methods

The taxonomic descriptions presented in this paper were generated from a DELTA (Dallwitz 2005) database of world caprelloid genera and Australian species. The generic diagnosis revised from Takeuchi (1993) will be presented in a monograph in preparation by Takeuchi and Lowry on the Caprellidae of New South Wales.