



Amphilochidae*

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Abstract

One genus and two new species of amphilochid amphipods are reported from the Great Barrier Reef, mainly from Lizard Island. Two new species, *Amphilochus justi* **sp. nov.** and *A. lacertus* **sp. nov.**, are described.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Amphilochidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new species, *Amphilochus justi*, *Amphilochus lacertus*

Introduction

The Amphilochidae is defined by a laterally compressed body, subchelate gnathopods, with at least coxa 1 vestigial, coxa 4 with well developed posteroventral lobe, urosomites not coalesced, no apical robust setae on the rami of uropods 1 and 2, inner ramus of uropod 2 longer than outer, biramous third uropods and an entire, laminar, telson. According to McKinney (1978) members of the Amphilochidae are very common in the marine bottom fauna, especially from the coral reefs, but are often overlooked due to their small size (2–4 mm). They are usually considered to be nestlers with wide ecological niches. They are also known to be associates of ascidians, sponges and bivalves.

Of the 14 known amphilochid genera: *Afrogitanopsis*, *Amphilochella*, *Amphilochoides*, *Amphilochopsis*, *Amphilochus*, *Apolochus*; *Cyclotelson*, *Gitana*, *Gitanogeiton*, *Gitanopsilis*, *Gitanopsis*, *Paramphilochoides*, *Paramphilochus* and *Rostrogitanopsis* (Barnard & Karaman 1991; Hoover & Bousfield 2001; Rauschert 1994), only two (*Amphilochus* and *Cyclotelson*) are known from the Great Barrier Reef. *Amphilochus* occurs worldwide, generally in shallow water and currently contains 23 species including the latest addition by Ren (2006). *Cyclotelson* is a monotypic genus, apparently endemic to the Torres Strait, which is an apparent commensal of feather stars.

Until now, five species in four genera (*Amphilochus marionis* Stebbing, 1888, *A. ruperti* Moore, 1988, *Cyclotelson purpureum* Potts, 1915, *Gitanogeiton sarsi* Stebbing, 1910, *Gitanopsis difficilis* J.L. Barnard, 1961) have been reported from waters around Australia (Lowry & Stoddart 2003). None was previously known from the Great Barrier Reef, although *C. purpureum* has been reported from Torres Strait.

Recently the author had an opportunity to examine specimens of several undescribed species from the family Amphilochidae collected on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). Identification and dissection of individuals were however quite intricate, due to the nature of the specimens supplied. Most of the specimens were incomplete, extremely fragile and brittle. In spite of this, two undescribed species of *Amphilochus* were discovered. One species, *Amphilochus lacertus* **sp. nov.**, was relatively common. The other species,