



## Aoridae\*

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### Abstract

Five genera and 21 species of aorids are reported from the Great Barrier Reef, most of which belong to the genus *Bemlos*. One third of the species are new to science and half of them are currently known only from the Great Barrier Reef.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Aoridae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new species, *Aoroides palfreyensis*, *Aoroides parvus*, *Autonoe seurati*, *Bemlos aequimanus*, *Bemlos australis*, *Bemlos bidens*, *Bemlos clypeatus*, *Bemlos ephippium*, *Bemlos gladius*, *Bemlos mollis*, *Bemlos triangulum*, *Bemlos tridentatus*, *Bemlos tui*, *Bemlos waipio*, *Globosolembos excavatus*, *Globosolembos longispinosus*, *Globosolembos ovatus*, *Globosolembos springthorpei*, *Globosolembos varanus*, *Grandidierella bonnieroides*, *Grandidierella rhizophorae*

### Introduction

The Aoridae are distributed worldwide but reach their greatest diversity on coral reefs. They occur in marine and brackish habitats, in shallow water and more rarely in the deep sea. Those that occur in shallow water often have cryptic patterning on the dorsum that can be species specific (Myers 1988b). They are detritivores, but may also be opportunistic predators (Myers 1971). They construct tubes of ‘amphipod silk’ and the males have an enlarged and complex gnathopod 1. Five genera and 21 species of aorids are reported from the Great Barrier Reef, most of which belong to the genus *Bemlos*. Such a high species richness of Aoridae has not been reported from any other reef system, worldwide. One third of the species are new to science and half of them are currently known only from the Great Barrier Reef.

### Materials and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the aorid genera and species of the world. Material was hand-collected on scuba and is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). A set of colour plates, list of standard abbreviations and detailed station data is available in Lowry & Myers (2009). A CD (*Benthic Amphipoda (Crustacea: Peracarida) of the Great Barrier Reef: Interactive Keys*) is available with the book or the keys can be accessed at the crustacea.net website.