



Cheirocratidae*

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Abstract

Prosocratus carolinae sp. nov. from the Great Barrier Reef is described. It is very similar to the South Australian species *Prosocratus butcheri* Barnard & Drummond, 1982, but differs in male gnathopod 1 characters. Additionally the Cheirocratidae is rediagnosed.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Cheirocratidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new species, *Prosocratus carolinae*

Introduction

The cheirocratids were first mentioned as a complex of genera by Barnard & Barnard (1983), but a formal description of a family Cheirocratidae was not done at that time. Karaman (1985) devoted a paper to the “*Cheirocratus* complex”. By that time the following genera were included: *Casco* Shoemaker, 1930; *Cheirocratella* Stephensen, 1940; *Cheirocratus* Norman, 1867; *Degocheirocratus* G. Karaman, 1985; *Incratella* Barnard & Drummond, 1982; *Prosocratus* Barnard & Drummond, 1982. Ren (2006) used for the first time the family name Cheirocratidae and diagnosed it. We rediagnose the family here.

Barnard & Drummond (1982) defined the genus *Prosocratus* consisting of only one species, *Prosocratus butcheri* Barnard & Drummond, 1982, originating from Southern Australia. In this contribution a new species of this genus from the Great Barrier Reef is described.

Materials and methods

The description was generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005). Illustrations were made using the methods described in Coleman (2003, 2006). Material was hand-collected on scuba or snorkel and is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). A set of colour plates, a 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.