



Ochlesidae*

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Abstract

Ochlesis alii is redescribed. It has a pointed mid-dorsal tooth on the posterior margin of pereonite 7 and a rounded process on pleonites 1 and 2. The antenna 1 has rather short pointed posterodistal processes on peduncular articles 1–2. Antenna 2 has a pointed process on peduncular article 4.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Ochlesidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, *Ochlesis alii*

Introduction

Ochlesidae are among the smallest amphipods, some species only measuring 1.5 mm. Because direct observation under water is difficult, the biology of these amphipods is a mystery. We do not even know what they eat with their pointed mouthparts.

Coleman & Lowry (2006) reviewed the world species of the Ochlesidae (*sensu stricto*) and described new Australian species. All Australian species hitherto recorded occur in southern, south-eastern or western Australia. Few tropical ochlesids have been described. In the Indo-Pacific region there is only *Curidia ramonae* Lowry & Myers, 2003 from Madang (Papua New Guinea) and *Ochlesis alii* (Barnard, 1970) from Hawaii. The species we found around Lizard Island and Orpheus Island matches *O. alii* in almost all details.

Materials and methods

The description was generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005). Material was hand-collected on scuba 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). Illustrations were made using the methods described in Coleman (2003, 2006). 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.