Ochlesidae*

CHARLES OLIVER COLEMAN
Humboldt-University, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Abteilung Sammlungen, D-10099 Berlin, Germany.
(oliver.coleman@mfn-berlin.de)


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.