Photidae*

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Abstract

Four genera and ten species of photid are reported from the Great Barrier Reef. Of these, three genera and eight species are new to science.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Photidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, new genera, new species, Gammaropsis hephaestus, Graciliphotis ruthae, Latigammaropsis athenae, Latigammaropsis dionysus, Latigammaropsis hermes, Latigammaropsis hestia, Photis aina, Photis davei, Photis pirloti, Virgammaropsis artemis

Introduction

The Photidae are distributed worldwide in both cold and warm waters. Ten species are recorded here, of which eight are new to science. The diverse genus Gammaropsis Liljeborg, 1855 is a catch-all for a number of loosely related taxa. It is currently under revision. Here, two new genera within the complex are established. A new Photis-like genus is also established. The genera Photis Krøyer, 1842 and Graciliphotis gen. nov. are unusual among corophiidean amphipods in showing no, or very little, sexual dimorphism.

Materials and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the photid genera and species of the world. 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.

Photidae Boeck, 1871

Gammaropsis Liljeborg, 1855

Gammaropsis hephaestus sp. nov.
(Figs 1, 2)

Type material. Holotype, male, 6.0 mm, AM P70730, Watsons Bay, Lizard Island (14°39’41”S