



Talitridae*

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Abstract

As a result of the Lizard Island Amphipod workshop (2005) and also as part of samples of the Australia National Talitrid Survey (2003), three species of Talitridae are reported: a neotype is designated for *Chelorchestia limicola* (**comb. nov.**); *Talorchestia spinipalma* is recorded for Australia from observed material, and *Talorchestia terraereginae*, considered for more than 100 years as a junior synonym of *T. spinipalma*, is re-established.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Talitridae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, *Chelorchestia limicola*, *Talorchestia spinipalma*, *Talorchestia terraereginae*

Introduction

Talitridae Rafinesque, 1815, is part of the superfamily Talitroidea, which according to Serejo (2004a) also includes three other families – Chiltoniidae J.L. Barnard, 1972, Hyalidae Bulycheva, 1957, and Dogielinotidae Gurjanova, 1953. The family Talitridae includes about 250 species distributed in 52 genera, being the only amphipod group that has colonized terrestrial habitats such as forest floor litter. Talitrids can also be found among decaying material in the supralittoral zone of sand beaches, mangrove swamps and deltas of rivers.

The first studies to describe Australian talitrids were those of Haswell (1879, 1880). Sheard (1937) included 19 species of Talitridae (*sensu lato*, Hyalidae + Talitridae + Chiltoniidae) in his Australian catalogue. More recently, Lowry & Stoddart (2003) catalogued the Australian amphipod fauna and updated our knowledge of the Talitridae. Forty five species of Talitridae were recorded. The first part of the Australian National Talitrid Survey recorded three new genera and eight species of coastal Talitridae, seven of them new to science (Serejo & Lowry 2008). In this paper three species from the Great Barrier Reef are redescribed: *Chelorchestia limicola* (Haswell, 1880); *Talorchestia spinipalma* (Dana, 1852); and *Talorchestia terraereginae* Haswell, 1880. Recently two additional species were identified from Ferriers Creek, Lizard Island: a new species of *Microrchestia* and a previously described species, *Chroestia lota* Marsden & Fenwick, 1986. These were discovered too late to include in this paper, but are included in the interactive keys.

Material and Methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) based on the Talitroidea world