



Uristidae*

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Abstract

Two genera and three species of uristid amphipods are reported from the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia. All are considered to be scavengers which can be common in areas where they occur.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Uristidae, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, taxonomy, *Ichnopus capricornus*, *Ichnopus tenuicornis*, *Nagada uwedoae*

Introduction

Members of the Uristidae occur in all world oceans from shallow water to the deep sea. With bodies adapted to swimming, calyptophores in males and females for detecting the most minuscule scents and mouthparts adapted for cutting and slicing, uristids are highly specialized for scavenging on carrion and for predation. Although best known in cold temperate and polar seas they also occur in tropical environments.

In this paper we report two genera and three species of uristid amphipods from the Great Barrier Reef. Two of these species, *Ichnopus capricornus* Lowry & Stoddart, 1992 and *I. tenuicornis* (Haswell, 1879a), appear to be endemic to tropical Australia (Lowry & Stoddart 1992, 2003). The third species, *Nagada uwedoae* Lowry & Stoddart, 1995, is known also from northern Papua New Guinea.

All of these species have been taken regularly in baited traps and are considered to be scavengers. Keable (1995), in his study of the shallow marine invertebrate scavengers of Lizard Island, reported *Ichnopus capricornus* as “both abundant and regularly obtained, accounting for 90% of the lysianassoid amphipods collected”. Lowry & Stoddart (1995) found *Nagada uwedoae* to be a common scavenger below 40 m depth on the slopes of the barrier reef outside Madang Lagoon in Astrolabe Bay, northern Papua New Guinea.

Materials and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the lysianassid and uristid species. Material was collected in baited traps and by epibenthic sleds. All material is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). 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.