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The lysianassid genus *Pseudambasia* in Australian waters (Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassidae, Lysianassinae)

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Abstract

Pseudambasia appears to be an Indo-West Pacific endemic, comprising mostly tropical and temperate species but also one from the New Zealand subantarctic. In this paper the genus *Pseudambasia* Stephensen is diagnosed against all other genera of the Lysianassinae. Six new species of *Pseudambasia* (*P. dartnalli* sp. nov.; *P. lochi* sp. nov.; *P. ponderi* sp. nov.; *P. poorei* sp. nov.; *P. sheardi* sp. nov.; and *P. springthorpei* sp. nov.) are described from Australian waters.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassidae, Lysianassinae, *Pseudambasia*, taxonomy, new species, Australia

Introduction

Pseudambasia is a well defined Indo-West Pacific genus that appears to be common and widespread in the lower intertidal and shallow subtidal environments. There are currently five species in the literature: *P. acuticaudata* (Ledoyer, 1984) from New Caledonia (Ledoyer 1984), the Austral Islands (Lowry & Stoddart 1994), Papua New Guinea (Lowry & Stoddart 1995) and the Great Barrier Reef (Lowry & Stoddart 2009); *P. indentata* (Ledoyer, 1986) from Madagascar; *P. kalaupapa* Longenecker & Bolick, 2007 from Hawaii; *P. nui* (Myers, 1985) from Fiji (Myers 1985), the Cook Islands and the Society Islands (Myers 1990); and *P. rossii* (Stephensen, 1927) from the New Zealand subantarctic (Stephensen, 1927, Lowry & Stoddart, 1983). In this paper we describe six new species from Australia, bringing the total number of described species in the genus to eleven.

Material and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2010) to the lysianassine genera and species of the world. The bold parts of the descriptions are diagnostic characters which distinguish each taxon in at least two respects from every other taxon. Material is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM) and Museum Victoria, Melbourne (NMV). Standard abbreviations on the plates are: A, antenna; E, epistome; EP, epimeron; G, gnathopod; H, head; LB, labium; MD, mandible; MX, maxilla; MP, maxilliped; P, pereopod; T, telson; U, uropod; L, left; R, right.

Pseudambasia Stephensen, 1927

Pseudambasia Stephensen, 1927: 305. Barnard & Karaman, 1991: 522. Lowry & Stoddart, 1995: 113.

Type species. *Pseudambasia bipartita* Stephensen, 1927, monotypy (= junior subjective synonym of *Parambasia rossii* Stephensen, 1927).

Diagnosis. Antenna 2 peduncular article 3 elongate (length 3 – 3.6 × breadth), geniculate between articles 3