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***Takereana*, a new genus of Idoteidae (Crustacea: Isopoda: Valvifera) from New Zealand**

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Abstract

Takereana n. gen. is erected for the New Zealand species, *Idotea festiva* Chilton, 1885, which is redescribed. *Takereana*, *Austridotea* Poore, 2001 and *Idotea* Fabricius, 1798 are the only idoteid genera in which both pleonites 1 and 2 are truly articulating. In all other genera of Idoteidae pleonite 2 is variously fused to pleonite 1 and visible only laterally. The new genus differs from *Austridotea* in that maxillipedal palp articles 2–3 and 4–5 are fused and operculate whereas in *Austridotea* the palp is of five free articles or has only articles 4–5 fused. All species of *Austridotea* are smooth with laterally expanded coxae, a quite different habitus from ornamented *Takereana festiva*. *Takereana* differs from *Idotea* in having two uropodal rami rather than one, greater fusion of maxillipedal palp articles, lacking spiniform setae on the pereopods, and unusual narrow pleopods 1. *Takereana* has an obsolete setose mandibular molar while it is columnar and toothed in both these genera.

Key words: Crustacea; Isopoda; Valvifera; *Takereana*; new genus; New Zealand

Introduction

Chilton (1885a; 1885b) described as a new species a single isopod from New Zealand that he was not able to place in Miers' (1881) revision of Idoteidae. He placed the species closest to species of *Idotea* Fabricius, 1798 in Miers' section IIa* (species with three free pleonites and a pleotelson with a pointed apex) and named it *Idotea festiva*. Chilton's illustration and description of the body are detailed and the species was instantly recognisable when rediscovered a century later. The species is sufficiently different from *Idotea* and other idoteid genera to warrant a new genus. Poore & Lew Ton (1993) did not include the species in their review of Idoteidae from Australia and New Zealand, regarding the species as a member of Chaetiliidae Dana, 1853. This was misguided as the pereopods are all similar, not differentiated as in chaetiliids – Chilton did not describe the legs other than to say they were 'small, not visible in dorsal view'.

The second author realised the species was unusual and in 1989 sent the first author excellent drawings of a second specimen that he called '*Takereana festiva* alias *Idotea festiva*'. In this contribution these pencil drawings have been prepared for publication by GCBP and the new genus justified by comparison with other idoteids. Photographs of a dry individual (fig. 1) were made using a Leica M205C microscope with Leica Application Suite 3.8.0. All known specimens have been re-examined. Material is deposited in the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch (CMNZ) and National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Wellington (NIWA).

Idoteidae Samouelle, 1819

Remarks. The Idoteidae comprise 22 genera (Poore 2001; Schotte *et al.* 2008 onwards) but no complete synthesis has been attempted. Brusca (1984) discussed possible phylogenies of a more broadly defined Idoteidae but many of these ideas are superseded. Poore & Lew Ton (1993) dealt with nine genera from Australia and New Zealand and Poore (2001) diagnosed the family as part of a revision of Valvifera generally. *Idotea festiva* does not conform with any genus already diagnosed.