

## The *Ericthonius* Group, a New Perspective on an Old Problem (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Corophioidea)

J.K. LOWRY & P.B. BERENTS

Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia  
JimL@amsg.AustMus.oz.au  
PennyB@amsg.AustMus.oz.au

**ABSTRACT.** The *Ericthonius* group is established based on corophioid taxa with dorsal spines on the telson. Within this group there are three non-aligned genera (*Ericthonius*, *Pseuderichthonius* and *Pseudischyrocerus*) and two robust clades known as the *Cerapus* clade and the *Siphonoecetes* clade. The *Cerapus* clade (five genera) is defined by four synapomorphic characters: a posteriorly directed dactylus on pereopod 7; accessory spines on the dactyli of pereopods 5–7; uniramous uropod 2; and rows of recurved spines on the telson. The *Siphonoecetes* clade (10 genera, Siphonoecetinae of Just, 1983) is defined by: five synapomorphic characters: a short, slender first antenna; a reduced mandibular palp; a simple or weakly subchelate male gnathopod 2; an anteriorly inserted carpus on pereopods 5–6; and no recurved distal spines on the rami of uropod 3. The relationships between these taxa are discussed and the *Cerapus* clade and the *Siphonoecetes* clade are considered to be sister taxa. Although the *Ericthonius* group is an obvious member of the Corophioidea there is currently no evidence to place it in an existing family. All genera in the *Cerapus* clade (*Bathypoma* n.gen., *Cerapus* Say, 1817, *Notopoma* n.gen., *Runanga* J.L. Barnard, 1961, and *Paracerapus* Budnikova, 1989) are diagnosed and a number of species are placed in new combinations. The two new genera, *Bathypoma* and *Notopoma*, are both characterised by a medially expanded peduncle on antenna 1 which functions as an operculum and distinguishes them from all other members of the group. *Bathypoma enigma* n.sp. is the only member of the *Cerapus* clade with a subchelate gnathopod 2 in the male. *Notopoma* contains *N. africana* n.sp., *N. crassicornis* (Bate, 1857), *N. fallohidea* (Lowry, 1981), *N. harfoota* (Lowry, 1981), *N. lutkini* (Tzvetkova, 1990), *N. moorea* n.sp., *N. opposita* (K.H. Barnard, 1931), *N. sismithi* (Stebbing, 1888), *N. stoddartae* n.sp. and *N. stoor*a (Lowry, 1981). A generic key to the *Ericthonius* group is included.

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