

The Harpacticoid Copepods (Crustacea) of the Saline Lakes in Southeast Australia, with Special Reference to the Laophontidae

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Figures 1-81.

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SUMMARY

The bottom-living copepods collected by Dr I. A. E. Bayly in the saline lakes include the cyclopoid *Halicyclops ambiguus* Kiefer and six species of harpacticoid, namely *Mesochra baylyi* Hamond, *Onychocamptus bengalensis* (Sewell), *Cletocamptus deitersi* (Richard), *Heterolaophonte wellsi* sp. nov., *Robertsonia propinqua* (Scott), and an undescribed species of *Amphiascoides*. *M. baylyi* was by far the most widespread and numerous harpacticoid, and in many of the samples it was the only harpacticoid present. *O. bengalensis* was the second most numerous and widespread harpacticoid, the other harpacticoids all being scarce; *H. ambiguus* was about as common as *O. bengalensis*, and had a substantially similar distribution. *R. propinqua*, *O. bengalensis*, and *C. deitersi* are new records for Australia. *H. wellsi* has been found only in high-salinity localities lacking weeds, and therefore appears to favour the bottom sediments; none of the other species showed any distinct preference for localities with or without weeds. The present paper also contains the description of *H. wellsi*, a redescription of *O. bengalensis*, and notes on *C. deitersi*.