

PHORONIDA FROM AUSTRALIA

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SUMMARY

Five species of Phoronida² have been recorded in Australian waters, from the vicinities of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne: *Phoronis pallida*, *P. psammophila*, *P. australis*, *Phoronopsis albomaculata* and *Phoronopsis harmeri*. A diagnosis for each species is given, together with notes on their taxonomy and ecology. The descriptions of three species, *Phoronis pallida*, *P. psammophila* and *Phoronopsis albomaculata*, have been expanded or modified. *Phoronopsis albomaculata* possesses nephridia with a single funnel, not two, and sometimes has a spiral lophophore. A new key to the species of Phoronida is provided, modifying the key established by Emig (1971).

INTRODUCTION

The earliest records of Phoronida in Australian waters were by Haswell (1883, 1885, 1893), from Port Jackson. *Phoronis australis* Haswell, 1883 was described burrowing in the tube wall of cerianthids (Coelenterata: Anthozoa), while a second species, considered to be probably *Phoronis psammophila* Cori, 1889 was recorded growing over empty mussel shells (Haswell, 1893). Other records of Phoronida have been of *P. australis*, from Port Jackson (Benham, 1889) and from Moreton Bay (Ponder, 1971).

An examination of material from recent survey work has increased the number of species of Phoronida known from Australia to five². *Phoronis psammophila* has been definitely identified, and Australian records are now available for *Phoronis pallida* (Schneider, 1862), *Phoronopsis albomaculata* Gilchrist, 1907, and *Phoronopsis harmeri* Pixell, 1912. The occurrences of the five species in Australian waters are discussed below, together with brief descriptions, and a key to the species is provided. Records from Port Phillip Bay, in south-eastern Australia, are given with the station designations used previously (MMBW and FWD, 1973).

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² Recently a sixth species, *Phoronis muelleri*, has been discovered from Moreton Bay, Queensland.