

## Australian *Plepodias* Richardson, 1910, and *Anilocra* Leach, 1818 (Isopoda: Cymothoidae), Crustacean Parasites of Marine Fishes

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ABSTRACT. The genus *Plepodias* is recorded from Australia for the first time. The genus is rediagnosed, and figures given for *Plepodias* sp. and *P. elongatus* Richardson. Twelve Australian species of *Anilocra* are described and figured: *A. alloceracea* Koelbel, *A. caudata* Bovallius, *A. dimidiata* Bleeker, *A. leptosoma* Bleeker, *A. longicauda* Schiödte & Meinert, *A. ankistra* n. sp., *A. apogonae* n. sp., *A. koolanae* n. sp., *A. morsicata* n. sp., *A. nemipteri* n. sp., *A. pomacentri* n. sp., and *A. soelae* n. sp. Additional figures and descriptive notes are given for *A. cavicauda* Richardson, that species being revalidated. *Anilocra carpentariensis* Avdeev is synonymised with *A. dimidiata*. Keys are provided for the Australian genera of the *Anilocra* group, and the Australian species of *Anilocra*.

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Recent studies of the Australian Cymothoidae were limited to the work of Hale (1926, 1940) and Avdeev (1975a,b,c, 1977, 1978, 1979a,b,c), the latter publishing on material collected around, but beyond Australian territorial waters. More recently, Bruce (1986) recorded 9 species of *Mothocya* from Australian waters. Prior to the work of Hale (1926) the only information available on Australian cymothoids was that to be found in the monographs of Schiödte & Meinert (1881, 1883, 1884). Other early works of relevance to the Australian cymothoid fauna are those dealing with the Indo-Pacific (Bleeker, 1857; Bovallius, 1887; Haller, 1880; Koelbel, 1878; Miers, 1880; Nierstrasz, 1915, 1918; Richardson, 1910). Some of these early publications (Haller, 1880; Miers, 1880) are of particular importance as they were not seen by Schiödte & Meinert, and the names proposed may have priority over those proposed by Schiödte & Meinert.

Up to and including Avdeev's publications, 45 species of Cymothoidae in nine genera had been recorded from waters around Australia. Of these, *Nerocila* and *Anilocra* were the only genera of the epidermal attaching lineage of Brusca (1981). Two species of *Anilocra* have

been recorded from Australia: *Anilocra cavicauda*, a misidentification of Hale (1926), and *A. carpentariensis* which is here synonymised with *A. dimidiata*. *Renocila* and *Nerocila* are well represented in Australian waters, and accounts of these two genera will be given in later publications.

Little is known about endemicity or distributional patterns of genera and species of Indo-Pacific Cymothoidae. Avdeev (1985) discussed the distribution of marine cymothoids but, as this present work and other recent publications (Williams & Williams, 1980, 1981; Bruce, 1986) have demonstrated, species richness within the Cymothoidae is far greater than previously suspected.

### Methods

When host specimens have been available, identifications have been confirmed by the staff of the Australian Museum Fish Section. Host identifications of specimens not retained, or non-expert identifications are marked by an asterisk. Host identifications without the specimen have been given in the original combination in the 'Material examined' section, and the most recent combination in the 'Hosts' section.

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