

**The Nereididae (Polychaeta) from Australia —
Gymnonereidinae sensu Fitzhugh, 1987:
Australonereis, *Ceratocephale*, *Dendronereides*,
Gymnonereis, *Nicon*, *Olganereis* and *Websterinereis***

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ABSTRACT. The subfamily Gymnonereidinae (*sensu* Fitzhugh, 1987) is represented in Australian waters by 14 species in seven genera, of which five are new species and these are described: *Ceratocephale aureola* n.sp., *C. setosa* n.sp., *Gymnonereis minyami* n.sp., *G. yurieli* n.sp. and *Nicon rotunda* n.sp. Six species are new records for Australian waters. This subfamily of nereidids is characterised by the lack of chitinous pharyngeal papillae, although soft papillae may be present. A key to the subfamilies of the family Nereididae is given together with a key to the genera and Australian species of the subfamily Gymnonereidinae. This paper represents the first of a series which will describe the Australian nereidid fauna.

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The family Nereididae is well represented in Australian waters (Day & Hutchings, 1979) by 17 genera and approximately 67 species. During a study of nereidids from southern Australian waters (Hutchings & Turvey, 1982) it became apparent that many undescribed species existed in more tropical regions of Australia.

We have therefore undertaken a comprehensive study of Australian nereidids and this first paper considers the subfamily Gymnonereidinae *sensu* Fitzhugh (1987). Seven genera are represented: *Australonereis*, *Ceratocephale*, *Dendronereides*, *Gymnonereis*, *Nicon*, *Olganereis* and

Websterinereis. We have followed the order of genera indicated in Fitzhugh's (1987, fig. 1) representation of phylogenetic relationships. We have examined all the nereidid material available in Australian State Museums and some material from ecological surveys lodged with various fisheries organisations. In this paper we describe 14 species of which five are new species and six new records for Australian waters. Fitzhugh (1987) has recently suggested that the subfamily Gymnonereidinae is a natural (=monophyletic) group which can be distinguished from the other two subfamilies, the Namanereidinae and the