

Amphipoda from the South Pacific: the Cook Islands

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ABSTRACT. Thirty species of gammaridean Amphipoda from 0 to 1.25 m depth are recorded from the Cook Islands. One species, *Colomastix murivai* n.sp., is new to science and is described and figured. *Periculodes aequimanus* (Kossmann), recorded for the first time from the Pacific, is also figured along with partial figures of four other species of taxonomic interest. The amphipod fauna of the Cook Islands is most closely similar to that of the Society Islands.

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Collections of gammaridean Amphipoda from 0 to 1.25 m depth were made by the writer in 1986 at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Two further samples from Rarotonga and one from Mangaia were also studied from the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., through the kindness of Dr J.L. Barnard. There appear to be no previous records of marine gammaridean amphipods from the Cook Island archipelago.

Thirty species were recorded of which one, *Colomastix murivai* n.sp., is new to science and one, *Periculodes aequimanus* (Kossmann), is new to the Pacific. One species, *Elasmopus takamotus* Myers, was previously known only from Niue (Myers, 1986a).

The Cook Island amphipod fauna shows close affinity with that of the Society Islands to the east (Table 1), but also has a strong component in common with the islands of the Vanuatu–Tonga Island arc and affinity with the island of Niue. In contrast, only 23% of the Cook Island species recorded herein are known also from Hawaii and all of those except one, have wide Indo-Pacific distributions.

Even the exception, *Podocerus talegus* Barnard, is also known from Fiji and Micronesia.

Colomastix murivai n.sp., *Periculodes aequimanus* (Kossmann), previously unknown from the Pacific, and four other species, *Mallacoota nananui* Myers, *M. subcarinata* (Haswell), *Maera serrata* Schellenberg, and *Podocerus talegus* Barnard, are all described and figured. A list of all material studied in the present work is provided.

Abbreviations used in the figures are as follows: A2 – Antenna 2; Mxp – Maxilliped; P3-6 – Pereopods 3-6; G1, G2 – Gnathopods 1, 2; U1-3 – Uropods 1-3; T – Telson.

Colomastix murivai n.sp.

Fig. 1

Type material. HOLOTYPE, female, 2.1 mm, 7 slides. AM P39309, Rarotonga, 2.5 km south of Aorangi, in coral rubble from reef crest, 12 Nov. 1986.