

A New Species of *Syscenus* Harger, 1880 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Aegidae) from Eastern Australia, With a Revised Diagnosis of the Genus

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ABSTRACT. *Syscenus springthorpei* n.sp. is described from a single specimen taken from the south-eastern Australian coast at a depth of about 500 m. This species is characterised by a sub-acute pleotelson apex, uropods that do not extend beyond the posterior margin of the pleotelson and a short antennal flagellum that does not extend beyond pereonite 3. A revised diagnosis of the genus and an annotated list of the known species is presented.

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The genus *Syscenus* is widely distributed throughout the world oceans. The species comprising this genus are usually known from single specimens from diverse localities. *Syscenus* has not previously been recorded from Australian waters and there exists only a single record from the Southwest Pacific: that of Monod (1973), which is considered of doubtful identity. The record of this genus brings the number of aegid genera known from Australian waters to four, only the Atlantic genus *Xenuraega* Tattersall, 1909 (Bruce 1993) and the pelagic genus *Barybrotos* Schiødte & Meinert, 1879 being absent. Brusca (1983) reviewed the history of the taxonomy of the family and Bruce (1993) provided a key to the known genera.

Abbreviations used: AM—Australian Museum, Sydney; BL—body length; PMS—plumose marginal setae; PS—plumose setae; ZMUC—Zoologisk Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Taxonomy

Genus *Syscenus* Harger

Syscenus Harger, 1880: 387.—Sars, 1899: 66.—Richardson, 1905: 212.—Stebbing, 1924: 9.—Wahrberg, 1930: 24.—Nierstrasz & Schuurmans Steckhoven Jr., 1930: 77.—Schultz, 1969: 196.—Menzies & George, 1972: 12.—Kussakin, 1979: 269.
Harponyx Sars, 1882: 60 (type species *Harponyx pranizoides* Sars, 1882).
Rocinela.—Bovallius, 1885: 4 (not *Rocinela* Leach, 1818).
Syscenus.—Stephensen, 1948: 41.

Type species. *Syscenus infelix* Harger, 1880, by monotypy. Gender neuter.