

Siphonoecetinae (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Ischyroceridae) 7: Australian Concholestids, *Ambicholestes* n.gen., with a Description of Six New Species, and a New, Restricted Diagnosis for *Caribboecetes* Just, 1983

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ABSTRACT. A new genus, *Ambicholestes*, of concholestid Siphonoecetinae is described. *Caribboecetes* Just, 1983 is re-diagnosed to encompass *C. barbadensis* Just, 1983 (type species), *C. jenikarpae* Just, 1984a, *C. intermedius* Just, 1984a and, tentatively, *C. pterycornis* Just, 1984a only. *Caribboecetes crassicornis* Just, 1984a, *C. magellani* Just, 1984a and *C. squamiferus* Just, 1984a are transferred to *Ambicholestes*, together with six new species from Australia: *A. cygnatratus*, *A. poorei*, *A. trilobatus*, *A. berentsae*, *A. thetis*, and *A. minutus*. The three last mentioned species are placed in a new subgenus, *Austrolestes*. The main character distinguishing *Ambicholestes* s.l. from *Caribboecetes* is the presence in the former of unique, complexly lobate inner lobes of the lower lip.

A possible stridulation organ involving coxal plate 2 and pereopod 2 is described for three species of *Ambicholestes*. A key to Australian *Ambicholestes* is provided. *Ambicholestes squamiferus* is recorded from Guam.

JUST, J., 1998. Siphonoecetinae (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Ischyroceridae) 7: Australian concholestids, *Ambicholestes* n.gen., with a description of six new species, and a new, restricted diagnosis for *Caribboecetes* Just, 1983. *Records of the Australian Museum* 50(1): 27–54.

Siphonoecetine amphipods are small (2–15 mm) marine crustaceans found in a variety of sheltered sandy or muddy places from the low water mark to several hundred metres depth, occasionally in very dense aggregations. Individual amphipods occupy tiny empty snail shells or worm tubes, which they carry around in a crawling or jumping manner. Siphonoecetines have been found around most continents except Antarctica and the North Polar Ocean, but many species remain to be described, not the least around

Australia and south-east Asia. A brief overview of siphonoecetine classification, distribution and biology is presented by Just (1988).

This study is the second in a planned series describing the rich Australian fauna of Siphonoecetinae. *Australoecetes* Just, 1983 was dealt with in detail by Just (1985). Preliminary results from field work and museum studies in Australia in 1984 were used in phylogenetic, biogeographic, and biological contexts by Just (1988). In