

**The Genus *Elasmopus***  
**(Crustacea: Amphipoda: Melitidae)**  
**from Mauritius (Indian Ocean)**  
**with Description of Five New Species**

CHANDANI APPADOO<sup>1</sup> AND ALAN A. MYERS<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Mauritius, Réduit, Mauritius

<sup>2</sup> Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology,  
University College Cork, Lee Maltings complex, Prospect Row, Cork, Republic of Ireland  
alanmyers@crustacea.net · chandani@uom.ac.mu

**ABSTRACT.** Nine species of the genus *Elasmopus* collected in the intertidal and shallow-subtidal zone of Mauritius are described and figured. These comprise five species, *E. palu* n.sp., *E. pseudinteger* n.sp., *E. souillacensis* n.sp., *E. steelei* n.sp., *E. puteus* n.sp., which are new to science, two species, *E. menurte* J.L. Barnard and *E. spinimanus* Walker that are recorded from Mauritius for the first time and two species, *E. spinidactylus* Chevreux and *E. pecteniscrus* (Bate) that were previously known from Mauritius. The genus *Elasmopus* is one of the most diverse genera of amphipods known from the island. A key to the *Elasmopus* species of Mauritius is provided.

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The genus *Elasmopus* is one of the most diverse melitid genera in the Indopacific tropics. Ledoyer (1978) recorded five species from Mauritius: *E. ecuadorensis hawaiiensis* Schellenberg, 1938 (= ?*E. palu* n.sp.), *E. hooheno* J.L. Barnard, 1970 (= *E. pseudinteger* n.sp.), *E. molakai* [sic] *pilosus* Ledoyer, 1978, *E. pseudaffinis* Schellenberg, 1938 form A and B (clearly two species but neither apparently *E. pseudaffinis* Schellenberg) and *Elasmopus* sp. (insufficiently described and figured for any judgment to be made). Appadoo & Steele (1998) added a further three species, *E. pecteniscrus* (Bate, 1862), *E. spinidactylus* Chevreux, 1908 and *Elasmopus* sp.

This paper reports on nine species of *Elasmopus* collected in Mauritius between 1998 and 2000, and includes five new

species and two new records for the island. Taxonomic descriptions of the new species and figures and descriptions of previously unrecorded and recorded species are presented.

#### **Material and methods**

Amphipods were collected from algae, seagrass and coral rubble from 24 sites around the island of Mauritius from February 1998 to February 2000. All sites were visited at low tide and samples were collected from the intertidal and shallow subtidal zones. Algae and rubble were collected by scraping them from their substrates using a small hand trowel. Amphipods were collected using the formalin wash method (see Myers, 1985).

\* author for correspondence