

The Coastal Talitridae (Amphipoda: Talitroidea) of Southern and Western Australia, with Comments on *Platorchestia platensis* (Krøyer, 1845)

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ABSTRACT. A total of eight coastal talitrid amphipods from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia are documented. Three new genera (*Australorchestia* n.gen.; *Bellorchestia* n.gen. and *Notorchestia* n.gen.) and seven new species (*Australorchestia occidentalis* n.sp.; *Bellorchestia richardsoni* n.sp.; *Notorchestia lobata* n.sp.; *N. naturaliste* n.sp.; *Platorchestia paraplatensis* n.sp. *Protorchestia ceduna* n.sp. and *Transorchestia marlo* n.sp.) are described. *Notorchestia australis* (Fearn-Wannan, 1968) is reported from Twofold Bay, New South Wales, to the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. Seven Australian and New Zealand “*Talorchestia*” species are transferred to *Bellorchestia*: *B. chathamensis* (Hurley, 1956); *B. kirki* (Hurley, 1956); *B. marmorata* (Haswell, 1880); *B. pravidactyla* (Haswell, 1880); *B. quoyana* (Milne Edwards, 1840); *B. spadix* (Hurley, 1956) and *B. tumida* (Thomson, 1885). Two Australian “*Talorchestia*” species are transferred to *Notorchestia*: *N. australis* (Fearn-Wannan, 1968) and *N. novaehollandiae* (Stebbing, 1899). Type material of *Platorchestia platensis* and *Protorchestia lakei* were re-examined for comparison with Australian species herein described. A key to the species herein described is provided.

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The family Talitridae includes about 250 species distributed in 52 genera, being the only amphipod group that has colonized terrestrial habitats. Coastal talitrids reported herein include species living by the sea on beaches, in estuarine areas, and even fully freshwater streams. Worldwide they include about 22 genera represented by the marsh-hoppers, beach-hoppers, and sand-hoppers. The fourth ecological group within the Talitridae, the land-hoppers, can be found near the sea or at high altitudes, but they inhabit the forest-floor litter, and are considered truly terrestrial. Definitions of

these four ecological groups were first proposed by Bousfield (1982, 1984) and are currently used in the literature, although they do not reflect monophyletic groups.

Australian land-hoppers are relatively well known from the works of Friend (1979, 1982, 1987). Richardson *et al.* (1991, 1997) and Richardson & Mulcahy (1996) showed the zonation of species, including land-hoppers, along Tasmanian coastlines. More recently, Peart & Lowry (2006) described six new land-hoppers from New South Wales. Land-hoppers will not be considered further in this study.

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