

Review of *Xenocheira* Haswell, 1879 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Aoridae)

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ABSTRACT. *Xenocheira fasciata* Haswell, 1879 is redescribed from the female type material collected from Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia. An additional male and female specimen from recent collections made in New South Wales are also illustrated. New records of *Xenocheira pirloti* Moore, 1988 from tropical northern Australia are provided which include a growth series of male and female specimens. This development range indicates that the type specimens from Aru Islands in east Indonesia are immature individuals. The new species *X. xandrothrix* is described from a single male specimen collected in the Beagle Gulf, Northern Territory, Australia. An updated generic diagnosis for *Xenocheira* Haswell, 1879 is provided, along with a key to the five known species.

KEYWORDS. Crustacea; Amphipoda; Aoridae; *Xenocheira*; taxonomy; new species

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Introduction

Xenocheira Haswell, 1879 are filter-feeding aorids recorded in shallow-water benthic samples from tropical to temperate waters (Moore, 1988). *Xenocheira* have a basket of long setae on gnathopod 2 in male and females, which is similar in appearance, although analogous, to other filter-feeding groups including *Autonoe* Bruzelius, 1859; *Grandidierella* Coutiere, 1904; *Haplocheira* Haswell, 1879; *Lemboides* Stebbing, 1895; *Microdeutopus* Costa, 1853 and *Leptocheirus* Zaddach, 1844 (see Moore, 1988; Myers, 2009). The diagnosis of *Xenocheira* has lagged behind other well defined aorid genera due to the limited knowledge of the type species *X. fasciata* Haswell, 1879 (Moore, 1988; Lyons & Myers, 1990).

Currently three species are placed in *Xenocheira*: *X. fasciata* Haswell, 1879 from southern Australia, *X. longisetosa* Ren, 2006 from the South China Sea and *X. pirloti* Moore, 1988 from the Aru Islands in east Indonesia.

This study recognizes the new species *X. xandrothrix* collected from the Beagle Gulf in Northern Territory, Australia and expands the known distribution of *X. fasciata* and *X. pirloti* in Australian waters. The numerous specimens of *X. pirloti* from a single sample has allowed a detailed analysis of the growth stage variation and development of the male gnathopod 2 is documented with increasing body size. An updated diagnosis of the genus *Xenocheira* is provided to stabilize the generic name and more clearly define the genus from other closely related groups. A key to males of *Xenocheira* species is provided.