

A New Species of *Caprella* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Caprellidae) from Gippsland Lakes, Australia, with a Redescription of *Caprella acanthogaster* Mayer, 1890 from Northern Japan

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ABSTRACT. *Caprella acanthogaster* Mayer, 1890 sensu lato (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Caprellidae) has previously been recorded from temperate and cold waters of Far East Asia and Australia. A detailed morphological comparison of specimens collected from Gippsland Lakes (Victoria, Australia) and Otsuchi Bay (Tohoku District, Japan) revealed that *C. acanthogaster* sensu lato from these regions comprises two separate species. *Caprella acanthogaster* Mayer, 1890 sensu stricto is confirmed to be distributed in northern Japan. *Caprella tamboensis* sp. nov. is present in Victoria and Tasmania, Australia, and most noticeably differs from *C. acanthogaster* sensu stricto in having a relatively short triangular projection on the palm of propodus of gnathopod 2 and a relatively longer peduncle article 2 of antenna 1 (being longer than article 3).

Introduction

The Amphipoda is a highly diverse order of crustaceans with approximately 10,000 species so far recorded from marine to terrestrial environments worldwide (Arfianti *et al.*, 2018). Within this order the genus *Caprella* is one of the most diverse genera containing more than 180 species with a peak in Far East Asia (Arimoto, 1976; Vassilenko, 1976; Takeuchi, 1999; Horton *et al.*, 2021). *Caprella* occupies the most apomorphic position in the *Caprogammarus-Caprella* line of the Caprellidea due to the loss of pereopods 3 and 4, and absence of a mandibular palp in the mouthparts (Takeuchi,

1993), which makes members of this genus easy to recognize. The species belonging to *Caprella* range in size from 1–3 cm in body length, and are mostly found in algal communities, or on buoys in port areas, and in aquaculture facilities with euryhaline environments (Takeuchi *et al.*, 2001, 2003).

Caprella acanthogaster Mayer, 1890, was originally recorded from the mouth of the Amur River in the Strait of Tartary (Mamiya Strait) in Far East Asia, north-western Pacific Ocean (Mayer, 1890). Subsequently, *C. acanthogaster* was reported in several taxonomic papers on the Caprellidea from the Siberian coast of the Sea of Japan (Schruin, 1937; Vassilenko, 1974), northern Japan

Keywords: Crustacea; Amphipoda; Caprellidae; Caprella; Far East Asia; Australia

ZooBank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:4905F97B-C2E7-4226-B6CA-4986D7B4603D

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Received: 23 June 2021 **Accepted:** 4 December 2021 **Published:** 9 March 2022 (in print and online simultaneously)

Publisher: The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia (a statutory authority of, and principally funded by, the NSW State Government)

Citation: Takeuchi, Ichiro, Kohsei Nagano, and Stephen J. Keable. 2022. A new species of *Caprella* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Caprellidae) from Gippsland Lakes, Australia, with a redescription of *Caprella acanthogaster* Mayer, 1890 from northern Japan. *Records of the Australian Museum* 74(1): 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.3853/j.2201-4349.74.2022.1778>

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