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**ABSTRACT.** We provide an overview of the World Amphipoda Database (WAD), a global species database that is part of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS). Launched in 2013, the database contains entries for over 10,500 accepted species names. Edited currently by 31 amphipod taxonomists, following WoRMS priorities, the WAD has at least one editor per major group. All accepted species are checked by the editors, as is the authorship available for all of the names. The higher classification is documented for every species and a type species is recorded for every genus name. This constitutes five of the 13 priorities for completion, set by WoRMS. In 2015, five LifeWatch grants were allocated for WAD activities. These included a general training workshop in 2016, together with data input for the superfamily Lysianassoidea and for a number of non-marine groups. Philanthropy grants in 2019 and 2021 covered more important gaps across the whole group. Further work remains to complete the linking of unaccepted names, original descriptions, and environmental information. Once these tasks are completed, the database will be considered complete for 8 of the 13 priorities, and efforts will continue to input new taxa annually and focus on the remaining priorities, particularly the input of type localities. We give an overview of the current status of the order Amphipoda, providing counts of the number of genera and species within each family belonging to the six suborders currently recognized.

## Introduction

The order Amphipoda forms part of the superorder Peracarida, uniting a diverse group of small shrimp-like taxa that brood their young in a pouch, with no independent larval dispersal stage. Amphipods range in size from a millimetre in length to the supergiant amphipod, *Alicella gigantea*

Chevreux, 1899, at 340 mm body length. Amphipods can be found in all marine habitats from beaches to the deepest ocean trenches, and have also colonized freshwaters and terrestrial habitats. Amphipods are important herbivores, detritivores, micropredators, scavengers, and ectoparasites and they form an important component of aquatic ecosystems. The World Amphipoda Database (WAD)

**Keywords:** Amphipoda, Crustacea, databases, global, biodiversity, nomenclature

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