

Description of *Stenothoe lowryi* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Stenothoidae), from the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT. *Stenothoe lowryi* sp. nov. from samples collected in an intertidal pool of Pangkor Island is described and illustrated. Diagnostic features of *Stenothoe lowryi* are almost exclusively related to Salman's material of *Stenothoe gallensis* Walker, 1904 from the Arabian Gulf (Salman, 1985), in the shape of male gnathopod 2, outer plate of maxilla 2 with 2 articles, and moderately convex dorsal margin of male gnathopod 2. However, *S. gallensis* and *S. lowryi* sp. nov. have shown slight differences by the latter in having: 1) gnathopod 2 propodus with palmar margin moderately convex; 2) uropod 2 rami with only one robust seta on medial margin, and; 3) uropod 3 article 2 distinctly longer than article 1, proximally swollen, not rugose.

Introduction

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the amphipod fauna of the Southeast Asian (SEA) region. Lowry (2000) published the first comprehensive distributional checklist of SEA amphipods with a more recent checklist by Azman *et al.* (2022). Various taxonomic works were also focussed on amphipods from the waters of Thailand (Lowry & Berents, 2002; Lowry & Stoddart 2002; Lowry & Watson, 2002; Myers, 2002; Peart, 2002; Takeuchi & Guerra-Garcia, 2002; Taylor, 2002; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2009; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2012a; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2012b; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2013a; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2013b; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2016; Wongkamhaeng *et al.*, 2018, Wongkamhaeng & Boonyanusith, 2015), Indonesia (Arfianti & Wongkamhaeng 2017; Ortiz & Lalana, 2003), the Philippines (Sawicki *et al.*, 2005; Stoddart & Lowry, 2004), Vietnam (Dang & Le, 2005; Dang & Le, 2011; Dang & Le, 2012; Dang & Le, 2013), Malaysia (Azman, 2021; Azman & Melvin, 2011; Azman & Othman, 2012; Azman &

Othman, 2013; Feirulsha & Rahim, 2020; Lim *et al.*, 2010; Nurshazwan *et al.*, 2020; Othman & Morino, 2006; Othman & Azman, 2007; Shin *et al.*, 2015), Singapore (Ali-Eimran *et al.*, 2020) and Timor-Leste (Hughes, 2015).

Nonetheless, stenothoid Amphipoda remain poorly studied in Southeast Asian waters, with only one species (*Stenothoe gallensis* Walker, 1904) recorded, until Krapp-Schickel (2015) described another species (*S. andamanensis* Krapp-Schickel, 2015) from the harbour of Havelock, Andaman Islands. The most recently described species are *S. irinae* Marin & Sinelnikov, 2018 and *S. nhatrangensis* Marin & Sinelnikov, 2018, from Nha Trang Bay, Vietnam.

While undertaking a faunal survey along the Straits of Malacca off the Malaysian west coast (1995–1996), a number of specimens were collected from intertidal rocks during a study of associated macrocrustaceans (including decapods and other peracarids) of Pangkor Island. This paper gives an illustrated description of a new species of *Stenothoe* from this region.

Keywords: Amphipoda, taxonomy, *Stenothoe*, *Stenothoe lowryi*, new species, Pangkor Island

ZooBank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:3D6F00F6-54E6-40F8-97E4-59CA19672E79

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Submitted: 21 June 2022 **Accepted:** 7 February 2023 **Published:** 6 December 2023 (in print and online simultaneously)

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

Citation: Azman, Abdul Rahim. 2023. Description of *Stenothoe lowryi* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Stenothoidae), from the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia. In *Festschrift in Honour of James K. Lowry*, ed. P. B. Berents, S. T. Ahyong, A. A. Myers, and L. Fanini. *Records of the Australian Museum* 75(4): 371–379. <https://doi.org/10.3853/rj.2201-4349.75.2023.1878>

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