

***Melita lowryi*, a New Species of Melitidae (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Senticaudata) from New Zealand, and the Redescription of *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) from Australia**

ROGER T. SPRINGTHORPE 

Australian Museum Research Institute,
Australian Museum, 1 William Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia

ABSTRACT. The identity of *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) is established with the redescription and re-illustration of material collected from near the type locality Port Jackson [Sydney Harbour], New South Wales, Australia. In 1916, Chilton supplemented the original description, using misidentified material from Auckland Harbour, New Zealand. This material is described as *Melita lowryi* sp. nov. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) was tentatively placed in the genus *Ledoyeromelita* Labay, 2016, based on tenuous evidence and the reasons for the exclusion of *Melita festiva* based on current redescriptions are discussed. *Melita festiva* was previously known only from the type locality. New Australian distribution records extend its range to southern New South Wales and Victoria.

Introduction

Maera festiva Chilton, 1885, was described using material from Sydney Harbour. Chilton's original description was based on incomplete specimens and only the antennae and gnathopods were described and only the gnathopods were illustrated. The description was inadequate by modern standards to correctly assign the genus, particularly with respect to mouth parts. The species was tentatively assigned to the genus *Maera* Leach, 1814 due to the absence of third uropods (Chilton, 1885: 1029). Later, Chilton (1916: 359) obtained specimens from Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, New Zealand, which he believed were identical to *Maera festiva* from Sydney Harbour, but the presence of *Melita*-like third uropods inclined Chilton (1916) to assign *Maera festiva* to the genus *Melita* Leach, 1814. The Rangitoto Reef material together with the description and illustrations, were used to supplement the original description but were

based on misidentified specimens of a different species. The gnathopods, epimera, and urosome were described but were not critically compared with the original material. Consequently, Chilton overlooked a number of differences between the two taxa. This has led to some confusion in the literature as to the identity of New Zealand material (Hurley, 1954; Barnard, 1972; Fenwick, 1976). Furthermore Chilton's (1885) original material is currently documented as missing (Shaw & Poore, 2016). In order to allay this confusion, *Melita festiva* is redescribed from new material collected from near the type locality and the New Zealand material is described from Chilton's 1916 specimens as *Melita lowryi* sp. nov.

Labay (2016) revised the genus *Melita* and re-assigned many species to other genera. The new genus *Ledoyeromelita* Labay, 2016, was erected (based on *Melita excavata* Ledoyer, 1979) to which *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) was tentatively assigned as *Ledoyeromelita festiva* (Chilton, 1885). Labay

Keywords: taxonomy, new species, *Melita*

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ORCID iD: Roger T. Springthorpe <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8617-3265>

Corresponding author: Roger T. Springthorpe Roger.Springthorpe@Australian.Museum

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(2016: 49) offers no explanation of the reasons for this decision other than “some of characteristics of this species are similar to *Melita excavata* Ledoyer, 1979”. The present redescription of *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) gives clarity to the identity of the species and confirms its place in the genus *Melita*.

Materials and methods

Material used in this study is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM), Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand (CMNZ) and Museums Victoria, Melbourne (NMV). Collections from the Australian Museum were fixed in 5% formalin and later transferred to 80% ethanol. Specimens were dissected in 80% ethanol. Permanent slides were made using polyvinyl lactophenol mounting agent. Chilton's New Zealand material consisted of a male and a female specimens mounted in Canada Balsam on glass slides (Shaw & Poore, 2016). The male specimen is fully dissected and mounted on 5 slides. The carcass is missing. The head of the male specimen is of similar size to that of the female specimen and therefore it is reasonable to estimate the body size of the male to be similar to the female specimen.

Illustrations were made using a Leitz Laborlux K, Wilde M20 and Wilde M5A stereomicroscopes fitted with camera lucida. The **bold** parts of the species descriptions are diagnostic characters. The terminology for spines and setae follows Watling (1989). The following abbreviations are used on the plates: A, antenna; H, head; i, incisor; UL, labrum; MD, mandible; LL, labium; MX, maxilla; MP, maxilliped; C, coxa; G, gnathopod; p, palp; P, pereopod; EP, epimeron; T, telson; U, uropod; UR, urosomite; L, left; R, right.

Systematics

Hadzioidea S. Karaman, 1943

Melitidae Bousfield, 1973

Melita Leach, 1814

Melita Leach, 1814: 403.—Sars, 1895: 507 (part).—Stebbing, 1906: 421 (part).—Chevreux & Fage, 1925: 227 (part).—Gurjanova, 1951: 746 (part).—Karaman, 1981: 41.—Barnard J. L., 1969: 245 (part).—Bousfield, 1973: 64.—Barnard & Barnard, 1983: 663–666 (part).—Jarret & Bousfield, 1996: 51.—Labay, 2016: 47.

Caliniphargus Stout, 1913: 640.

Megamoera Bate, 1862: 224 (part).

Type species. *Cancer palmatus* Montagu, 1804.

Diagnosis. (Modified from Jarret & Bousfield, 1996 and Labay, 2016). Head, with antero-ventral notch or slit, anterior and posterior lobes rounded. Pleonite segments usually lacking dorsal teeth. Urosomite 1 with or without dorsal mid-line spine. Urosomite 2 with paired dorsal spines and/or robust setae in 2 groups. Mandible left lacinia mobilis 4-dentate; palp well developed, 3-articulate, articles 2 and 3 with terminal and marginal setae. Maxilla 1, inner plate subrectangular, elongate, with truncate or rounded distal margin, with apical setae, outer plate with 9 apical robust setae. Maxilla 2, inner plate with distal marginal setae, oblique

setal row absent. Maxilliped plates strong; palp article 2 sublinear; article 3 bilobed; dactyl stout, curved. Gnathopod 1, sexually dimorphic or not, subchelate. Gnathopod 2 sexually dimorphic, subchelate; pereopod 6 coxa sexually dimorphic. Epimeron 3, hind corner moderately produced, acute or with small tooth, ventral margin smooth or weakly serrate. Uropod 1, peduncle with basofacial robust seta; Uropod 3, inner ramus scale-like; outer ramus, much longer than peduncle, 1 or 2-articulate, article 2 short. Telson deeply cleft, lobes terminally subacute, each with 2–3 robust setae.

Remarks. According to Labay (2016) and Horton *et al.* (2022) there are currently 57 species in the genus *Melita*. This paper reinstates one species and adds one new species to bring the total to 59 species. Further investigation of poorly described historical species of *Melita* is required to resolve some taxonomic issues but is outside the scope of this work.

Melita festiva (Chilton, 1885)

Figs 1–4

Maera festiva Chilton, 1885: 1037, pl. 46, fig. 2a–c.—Stebbing, 1910: 642.

Maera rubromaculata Haswell, 1885: 105 (in part).

Ceradocus rubromaculata Della Valle, 1893: 720 (in part).—Stebbing, 1906: 431, 732 (in part).

Melita festiva.—Sheard, 1937: 24 (list).—J. L. Barnard, 1972: 117 (in part = *M. lowryi* sp. nov.).—Barnard & Barnard, 1983: 665.—Zeidler, 1989: 335.—Lowry & Springthorpe, 2005: 238, tab. 1.

Abludomelita festiva.—Karaman, 1981: 40.

Ledoyeromelita festiva.—Labay, 2016: 65.

Not *Melita festiva*.—Chilton, 1916: 359, figs 1–2.—Hurley, 1957: 6.—Fenwick, 1976: 2. (= *M. lowryi* sp. nov.).

Syntypes: 2 specimens (2 micro slides), CMNZ, Sydney Harbour, New South Wales, Australia (catalogued but currently missing, Shaw & Poore, 2016: 32); 1 male, 1 female (wet specimens in alcohol), CMNZ 2015.149.154–155, Sydney Harbour, New South Wales, Australia, 1 January 1884 (labelled as “cotypes”).

Additional material examined. *New South Wales:* 1 male, 10.4 mm (dissected, carcass, and 4 micro slides), AM P.18120, Bottle and Glass Rocks, Port Jackson, ca. 33°50.9'S 151°16.2'E, between tide marks, 28 July 1923, coll. A. A. Livingstone; 1 male (9.7 mm), 1 ovigerous female (6.7 mm), 3 females (5.8–8.5 mm), AM P.5333, Coogee, 33°55'S 151°16'E, coll. F. A. McNeill; 4 males (3.3–8.3 mm), 1 ovigerous female (6.7 mm), 5 females (3.3–8.5 mm), AM P.36647, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, gravel and algae, S. J. Keable & J. T. van der Velde, 9 October 1984, station Q11; 1 male (8.3 mm; carcass and 3 micro slides), AM P.55021, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, gravel and algae, S. J. Keable & J. T. van der Velde, 9 October 1984, station Q11; 1 ovigerous female (6.7 mm; dissected, carcass, and 2 micro slides), AM P.55022, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, gravel and algae, 9 October 1984, coll. S. J. Keable & J. T. van der Velde, station Q11; 1 male (5.4 mm), 1 female (5.8 mm), AM P.55118, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, subtidal rock platform, 2–9 m, S. J. Keable & E. A. Bamber, 11 December 1984, station Q2; 2 males (4.2–5.4 mm), AM P.55119, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, kelp holdfast, subtidal rock platform, 3 m, S. J. Keable & E. A. Bamber, 11 December 1984, station Q2; 1 female (6.7 mm), AM P.55120, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, subtidal rock platform, P. A. Hutchings, 9 October 1984, station Q5; 1 male (4.2 mm), 2 females (7.5–7.9 mm), AM P.106019, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, P. A. Hutchings & S. J. Keable, 17 September 1985, station Q7; 1 female (4.2 mm), AM P.106020, Twofold Bay, Murrumbulga Point, 37°04.7'S 149°53.1'E, S. J. Keable & E. A. Bamber, 11 December 1984, station Q18.

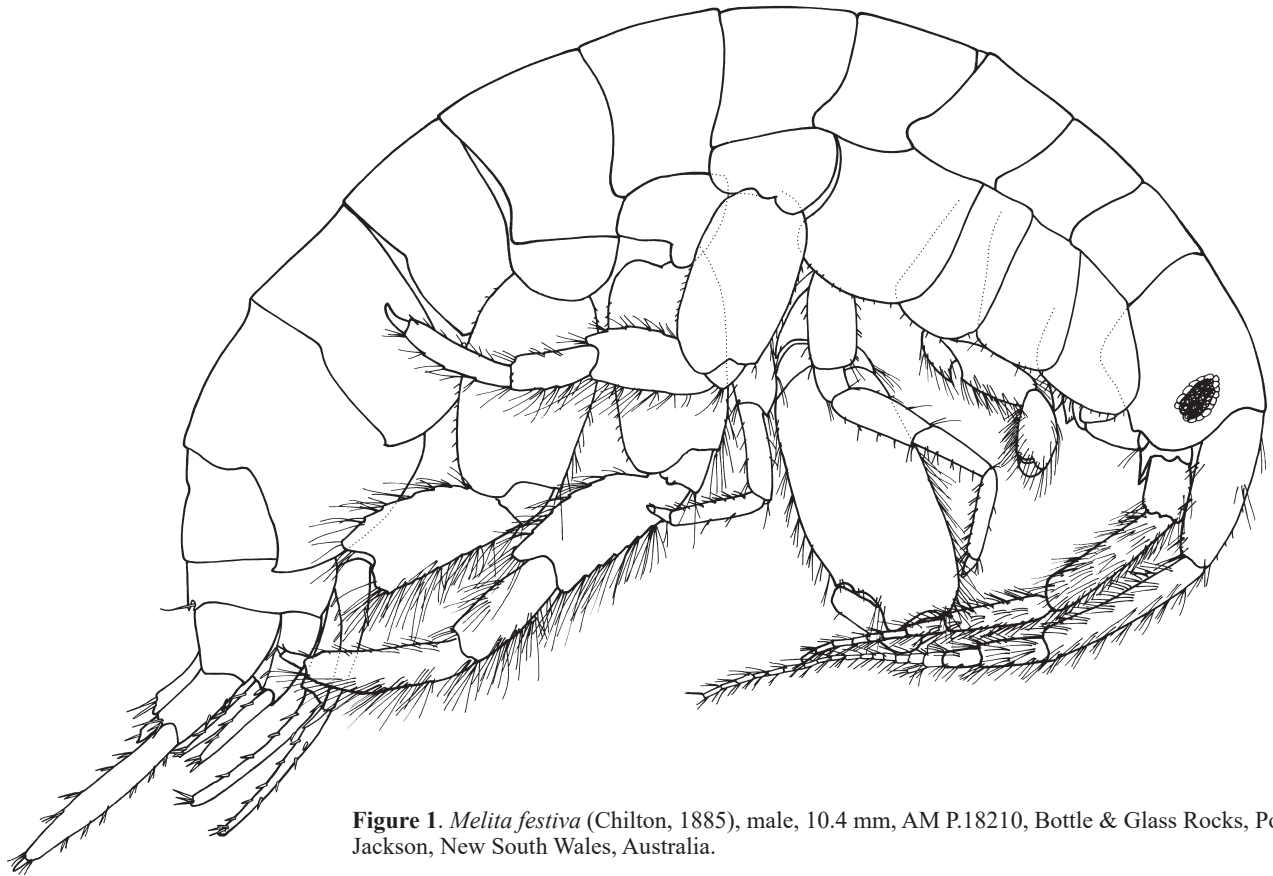


Figure 1. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885), male, 10.4 mm, AM P.18210, Bottle & Glass Rocks, Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia.

Australian Commonwealth Territory: 1 specimen (5.4 mm), AM P.92920, Murrays Beach, Jervis Bay, 35°07.5'S 150°45.5'E, hand collected, sponge-encrusted dead barnacles 0.5 m, 28 June 1981, H. E. Stoddart, station MI NSW 52.

Victoria: 2 males, 6 females, NMV J13115, off Crib Point, Western Port, 38°20.56'S 145°15.06'E, Smith-McIntyre grab, 2 m, coll. A. J. Gilmour, 5 April 1965, station CPBS-N 03; 1 male, NMV J13116, off Crib Point, Western Port, 38°20.83'S 145°13.5'E, Smith-McIntyre grab, 13 m, coll. A. J. Gilmour, 23 March 1965, station CPBS-N 32; 1 female, NMV J13117, off Crib Point, Western Port, 38°20.56'S 145°15.06'E, Smith-McIntyre grab, 2 m, coll. A. J. Gilmour, 5 April 1965, station CPBS-N 03; 1 male, 1 female, NMV J13118, off Crib Point, Western Port, 38°21'S 145°13.8'E, Smith-McIntyre grab, 11 m, coll. A. J. Gilmour, 12 October 1964, station CPBS-B 4; 1 male (7.9 mm), 1 ovigerous female (6.3 mm), AM P.106018, Hayley Point, Mounts Bay, 38°47'S 143°40'E, under stones, rocky shore low tide, R. T. Springthorpe & P. B. Berents, 4 May 1988, station MI VIC-69.

Type locality. Sydney Harbour, New South Wales, Australia, ca. 33°51.55'S 151°13.35'E.

Description. Male (based on male, 10.4 mm, AM P.18120).

Head. Anteroventral margin with large notch on anteroventral corner, anteroventral corner rounded; eyes present, well developed. Antenna 1 longer than antenna 2, peduncular article 1 shorter than 2 with 3 robust setae along posterior margin, article 2 longer than article 3; accessory flagellum 6- or 7-articulate; flagellum 31+ articulate. Antenna 2 peduncular article 4 subequal to article 5; flagellum strongly setose, 13-articulate. Mandible molar large, setal row well developed; palp well-developed, 3-articulate; article 1 not produced distally, length 0.5 times article 2, article 2 length 0.8 times article 3 with several marginal setae, article 3 rectilinear with a bunch of apical setae and several marginal setae. Maxilla 1 inner plate long, subrectangular, with 8 apical plumose setae, outer plate with 9 apical setal

teeth, palp 2-articulate, slightly curved with numerous apical and subapical setae. Maxilla 2 inner plate without oblique setal row on inner face, with marginal setal row. Maxilliped plates strong, palp article 2 rectilinear, dactyl curved.

Pereon. Coxae 1–3 without posteroventral cusp. **Gnathopod 1 not sexually dimorphic**, subchelate; coxa anteroventral corner produced, rounded, anterior margin slightly concave; carpus about 2 times longer than broad, length 1.2 times propodus; propodus small, linear, without hump along anterior margin, without anterodistal projection or hood, posterodistal margin not swollen, palm acute and convex, entire, without anterodistal projection near base of dactylus; dactylus articulating distinctly with propodus, well developed, fitting palm, posterior margin not swollen at base. **Gnathopod 2** significantly enlarged in male, sexually dimorphic; left and right gnathopods subequal in size, subchelate; merus with sharply produced posterodistal process; carpus compressed, length about 0.5 times breadth, posterior margin lobate; **propodus expanded, with numerous rows of dense setae medially and along anterior and posterior margins, palm acute, with a row of robust setae along lateral margin, with large truncate mid palmar tooth, posterodistal corner defined by large tooth and 2 robust setae medially and laterally; dactylus apically truncate, hammer-like, closing along palm.** Pereopod 4 smaller than pereopod 3, coxa with posteroventral lobe. **Pereopods 5–7** similar in shape; **merus, carpus, and propodus with numerous dense bunches of long slender setae along anterior and posterior margins.** Pereopod 5 smaller than pereopods 6–7; basis expanded, posterior margin almost straight, minutely

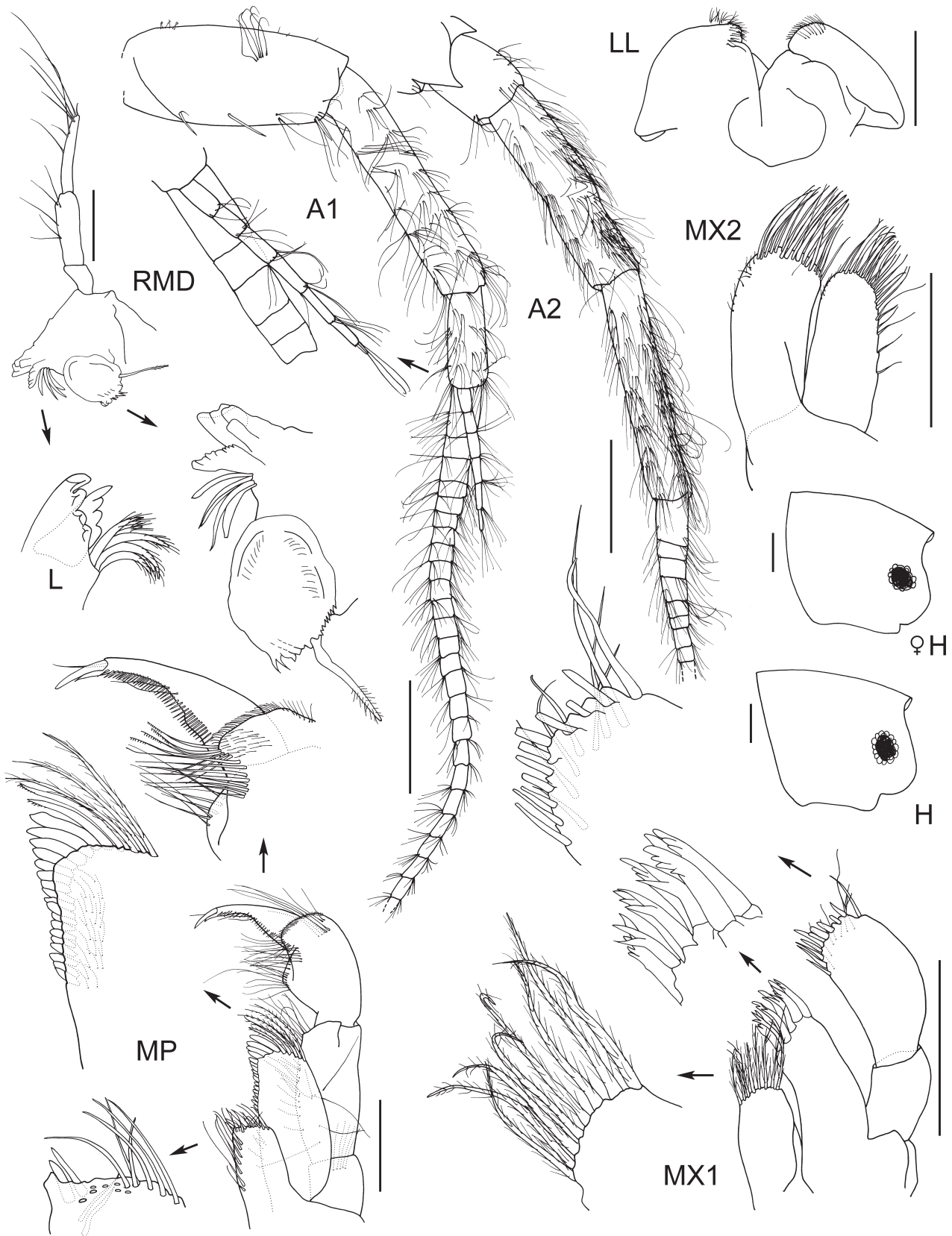


Figure 2. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885), male, 10.4 mm, AM P.18210, Bottle & Glass Rocks, Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia, female, 6.7 mm, AM P.55022, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, New South Wales, Australia. Scales for A1–2 represent 0.5 mm, remainder represent 0.2 mm.

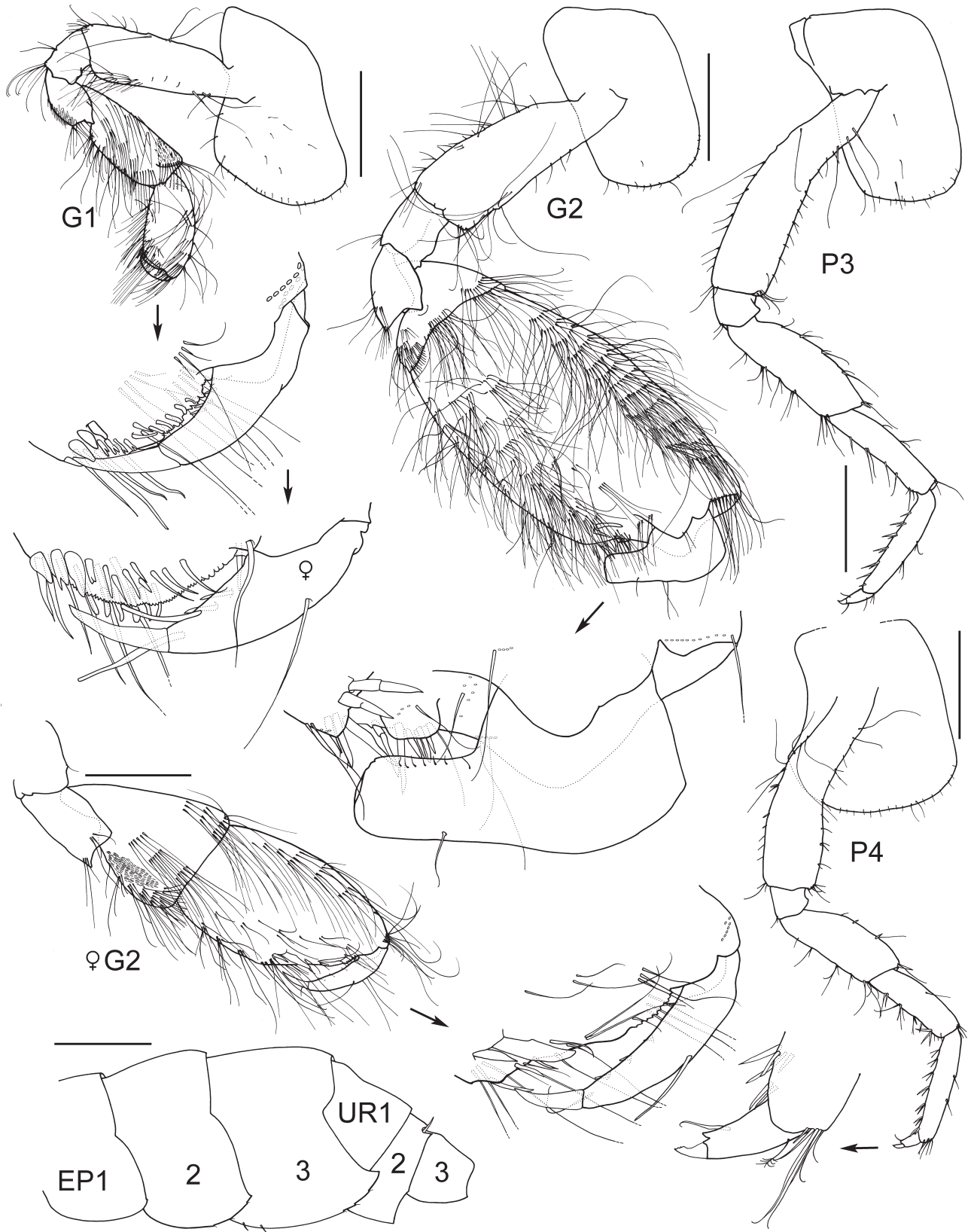


Figure 3. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885), male, 10.4 mm, AM P.18210, Bottle & Glass Rocks, Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia, female, 6.7 mm, AM P.55022 Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, New South Wales, Australia. Scales represent 0.5 mm.

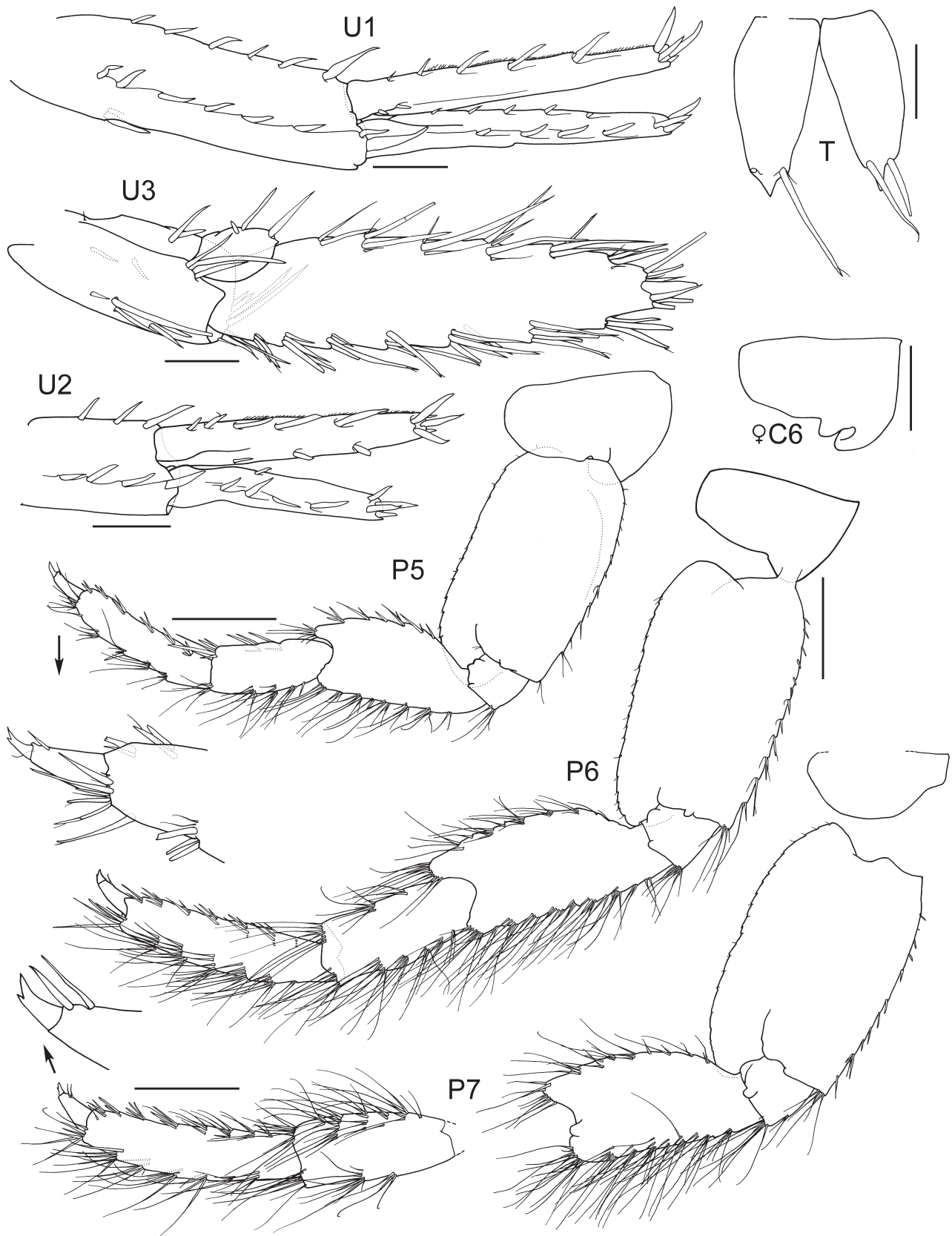


Figure 4. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885), male, AM P.18210, Bottle & Glass Rocks, Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia, female, 6.7 mm, AM P.55022, Murrumbulga Point, Twofold Bay, New South Wales, Australia. Scales for P5–7 represent 0.5 mm, remainder represent 0.2 mm.

serrate, posteroventral corner broadly rounded; dactylar unguis bifid. Pereopod 6 coxa sexually dimorphic, anterior lobe slightly produced, rounded. Pereopod 7 subequal in size to pereopod 6.

Pleon. Pleonites 1–3 without dorsal teeth, spines or setae. Epimeron 1 posteroventral corner subquadrate. Epimeron 2 posteroventral corner subquadrate. **Epimeron 3** posterior margin smooth, **ventral margin serrate along posterior quarter**, posteroventral corner with strongly produced acute tooth. **Urosomite 1 without dorsal mid-line spine.** Urosomite 2 with 4 dorsal spines with 2 dorsal robust setae in 2 groups. Uropod 1 peduncle with basofacial robust seta. **Uropod 3** inner ramus scale-like, much shorter than outer ramus; **outer ramus length 4.5 times breadth**, 2-articulate, article 2 short. **Telson** deeply cleft, **as long as broad**, lobes apically acute with 2 subapical robust setae on each lobe, **inner and outer margins lacking setae.**

Female (Sexually dimorphic characters). Based on female, 6.7 mm, AM P.55022. Oostegites linear, sparsely setose, present on gnathopod 2 and pereopods 3–5. **Gnathopod 2** carpus short, length 1.4 times breadth, posterior margin not lobate; **propodus** subovate, **length 1.2 times carpus, palm acute, corner defined by subquadrate tooth and 2 robust setae**; dactylus apically acute, closing along palm. Pereopod 6 coxa anterior lobe slightly produced, bilobate.

Habitat. Marine, rocky intertidal to 11 m depth.

Remarks. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) is distinguished from almost all other species of *Melita* by the distinctive second gnathopod in the male having an inflated sub-ovoid propodus and heavy, hammer-like, distally truncate dactyl. *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) and *Melita lowryi* sp. nov. appear superficially similar in the form of male gnathopod 2. *Melita festiva* differs from *Melita lowryi* sp. nov., in the heavily setose gnathopod 2 and pereopods 5 to 7, gnathopod 2 propodus palm having a single subquadrate tooth (2 teeth in *M. lowryi*), urosomite 1 lacking dorsal mid-line spine (with dorsal mid-line spine in *M. lowryi*), uropod 3 outer ramus shorter than in *M. lowryi* and telson without medial setae (1 seta per lobe in *M. lowryi*).

Distribution. Australia. New South Wales: Port Jackson (Chilton, 1885, current study); Twofold Bay (current study). Australian Commonwealth Territory: Jervis Bay (current study). Victoria: Western Port; Mounts Bay (current study).

Melita lowryi sp. nov.

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Figs 5–7

Melita festiva Chilton, 1916: 359, figs 1, 2.—J. L. Barnard, 1972: 117.

? *Melita festiva*.—Hurley, 1957: 6.—Fenwick, 1976: 2.
Not *Ledoyeromelita festiva*.—Labay, 2016: 65.

Holotype: Male (ca. 12.5 mm; 5 micro slides A1–5), CMNZ 2015.149.4190, Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, New Zealand, 36°47'S 174°49.5'E, under stones, coll. W. R. B. Oliver. **Paratype:** Ovigerous female (12.5 mm; 2 micro slides B1–2), CMNZ 2015.149.4191, same data as holotype.

Type locality. Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, New Zealand, 36°47'S 174°49.5'E.

Description. Based on holotype male, ca. 12.5 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4190.

Head. Anteroventral margin with large notch on anteroventral corner, anteroventral corner rounded; eyes present, well developed. Antenna 1 longer than antenna 2, peduncular article 1 shorter than 2 with 4 robust setae along posterior margin, article 2 longer than article 3; accessory flagellum 5-articulate; flagellum 20-articulate. Antenna 2 peduncular article 4 subequal to article 5; flagellum strongly setose, 13-articulate. Mandible molar unknown (not present on slides), setal row well developed; palp well-developed, 3-articulate; article 1 not produced distally, length 0.5 times article 2, article 2 length 0.8 times article 3 with several marginal setae, article 3 rectilinear with a bunch of apical setae and several marginal setae. Maxilla 1 inner plate long, subrectangular, with 8 apical plumose setae, outer plate with 9 apical setal teeth, palp 2-articulate, slightly curved with numerous apical and subapical setae. Maxilla 2 inner plate without oblique setal row on inner face, with marginal setal row. Maxilliped plates strong, palp article 2 rectilinear, dactyl curved.

Pereon. Coxae 1–3 without posteroventral cusp. **Gnathopod 1 not sexually dimorphic**, subchelate; coxa anteroventral corner produced, rounded, anterior margin slightly concave; carpus about 2 times longer than broad, length 1.2 times propodus; propodus small, linear, without hump along anterior margin, without anterodistal projection or hood, posterodistal margin not swollen; palm convex, entire, without anterodistal projection near base of dactylus; dactylus articulating distinctly with propodus, well developed, fitting palm, posterior margin not swollen at base. **Gnathopod 2** significantly enlarged in male, sexually dimorphic; left and right gnathopods subequal in size, subchelate; merus with sharply produced posterodistal process; carpus compressed, length about 0.5 times breadth, posterior margin lobate; **propodus expanded, with a few rows of setae along anterior and posterior margins, palm slightly acute, with a row of simple setae along lateral margin, with large truncate mid palmar tooth, and one large rounded proximal tooth, posterodistal corner subquadrate with 2 robust setae medially; dactylus apically truncate, hammer-like**, closing along palm. Pereopod 4 smaller than pereopod 3, coxa with posteroventral lobe. **Pereopods 5–7** similar in shape; **merus, carpus, and propodus not densely setose, with bunches of slender setae along anterior margin, posterior margin sparsely setose.** Pereopod 5 smaller than pereopods 6–7; basis expanded, posterior margin almost straight, minutely serrate, posteroventral corner broadly rounded; dactylar unguis bifid. Pereopod 6 coxa sexually dimorphic, anterior lobe slightly produced, rounded. Pereopod 7 subequal in size to pereopod 6.

Pleon. Pleonites 1–3 without dorsal teeth, spines or setae. Epimeron 1 posteroventral corner subquadrate. Epimeron 2 posteroventral corner subquadrate. **Epimeron 3** posterior margin smooth with several minute setae, **ventral margin serrate along posterior half**, with several small robust setae along anterior half, posteroventral corner with strongly produced acute tooth. **Urosomite 1 with one dorsal mid-line spine.** Urosomite 2 with 4 dorsal spines, with 2 dorsal robust setae in 2 groups. Uropod 1 peduncle with basofacial robust seta. **Uropod 3** inner ramus scale-like, much shorter than outer ramus, **outer ramus long, length 8.5 times breadth**,

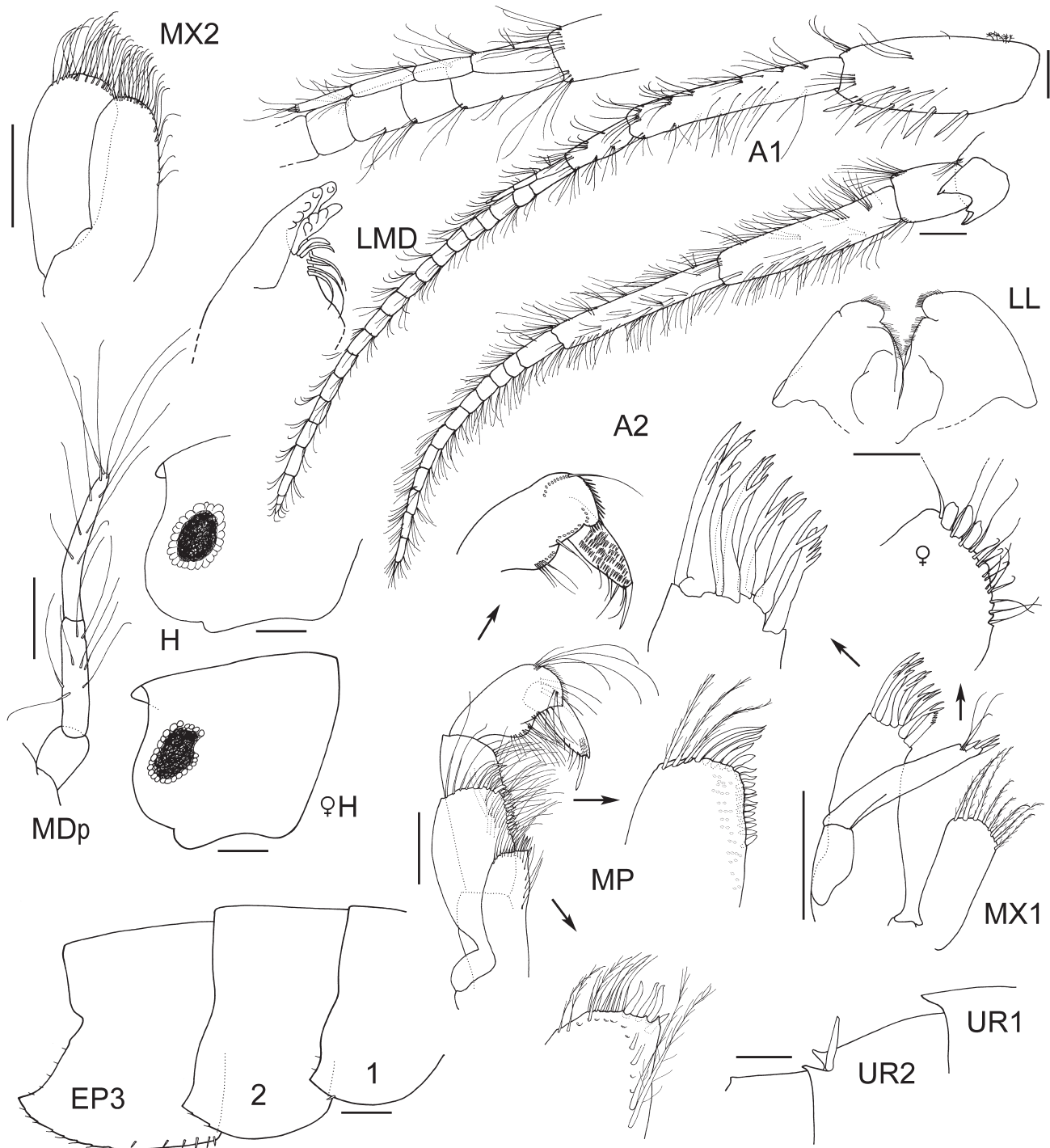


Figure 5. *Melita lowryi* sp. nov., holotype male, ca. 12 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4190, Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, New Zealand; paratype female, 12.5 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4191, same data. Scale lines represent 0.2 mm.

2-articulate, article 2 short. **Telson** deeply cleft, **longer than broad**, lobes apically acute, with 2 subapical robust setae on each lobe, robust setae along outer margins absent, **one minute seta on inner margin of each lobe**.

Female (Sexually dimorphic characters). Based on paratype female, 12.5 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4191. Oostegites linear, sparsely setose, present on gnathopod 2 and pereopods 3–5. **Gnathopod 2** carpus short, length 1.4 times breadth, posterior margin not lobate; **propodus** subovate, **length 1.7 times carpus**, **palm acute, cuspidate, corner defined by acute tooth and 2 robust setae**; dactylus apically acute,

closing along palm. Pereopod 6 coxa anterior lobe slightly produced, bilobate.

Habitat. Marine, rocky intertidal algae to 11 m depth.

Etymology. Named for Jim Lowry, friend and colleague, for his vast contribution to the taxonomy and natural history of the Amphipoda.

Remarks. The differences between *Melita lowryi* sp. nov. and *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) are discussed under *Melita*

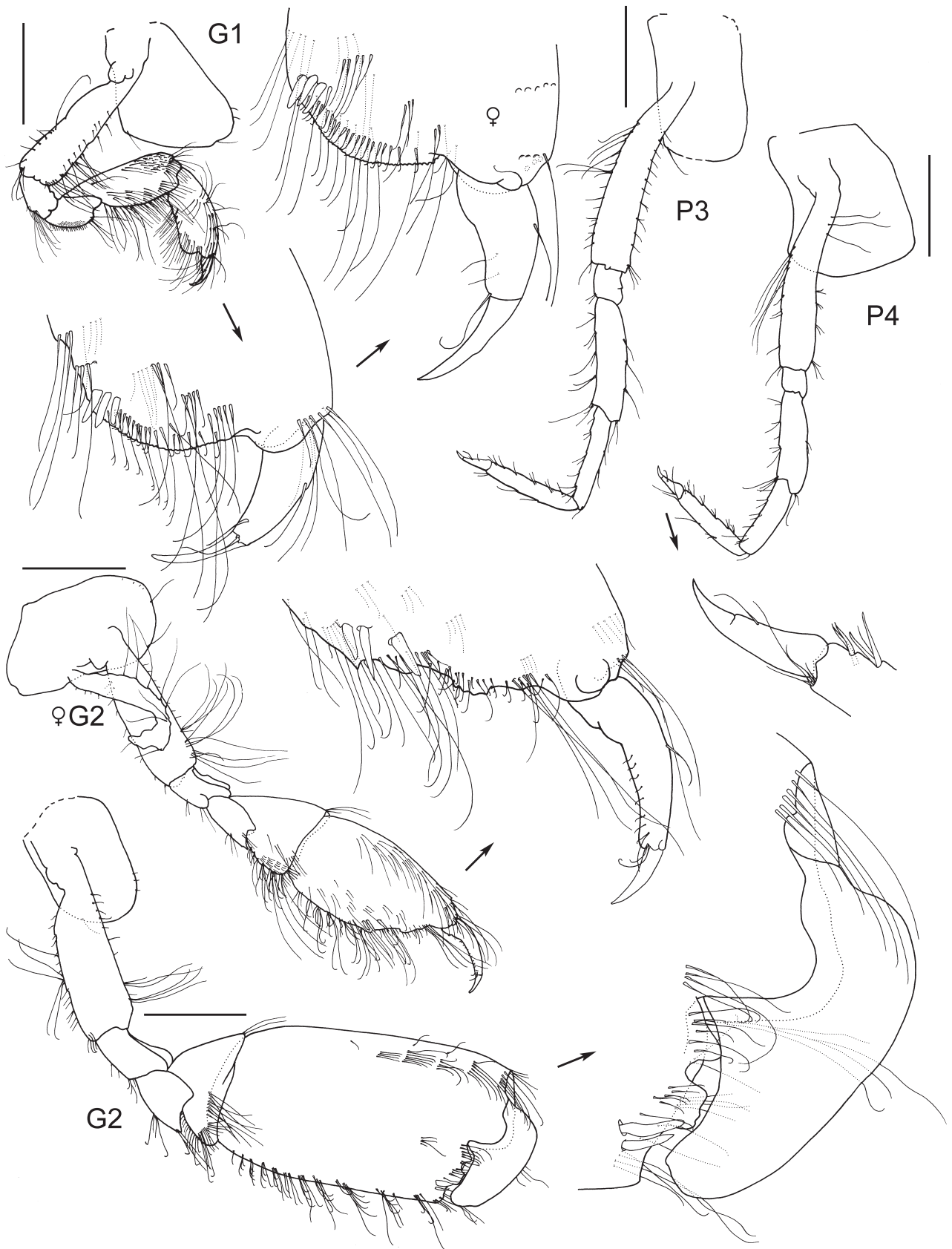


Figure 6. *Melita lowryi* sp. nov., holotype male, ca. 12 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4190, Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, New Zealand; paratype female, 12.5 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4191, same data. Scale lines represent 0.5 mm.

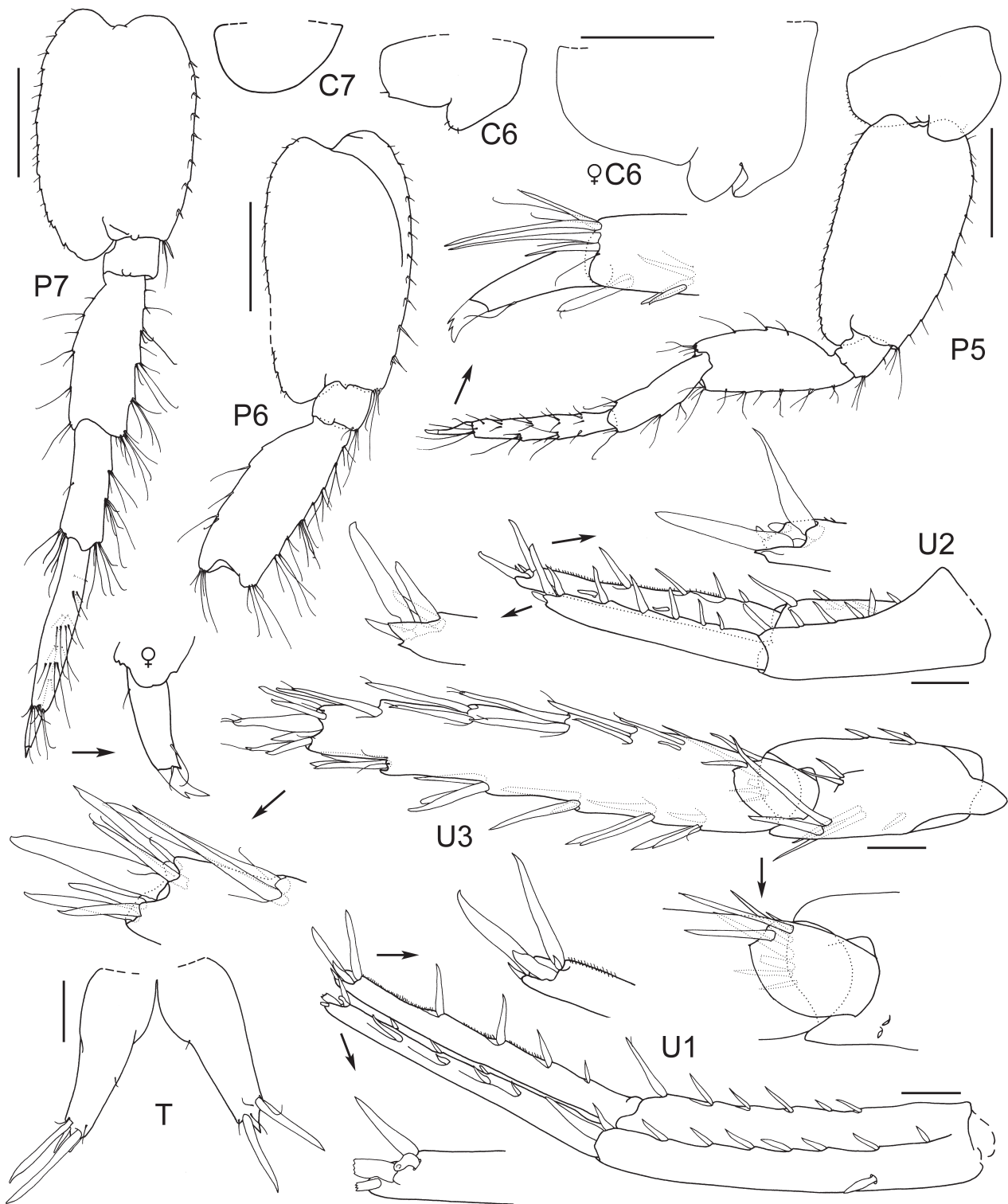


Figure 7. *Melita lowryi* sp. nov., holotype male, ca. 12 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4190, Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, New Zealand; paratype female, 12.5 mm, CMNZ 2015.149.4191, same data. Scale lines for P5–7 represent 0.5 mm; remainder represent 0.2 mm.

festiva above. Both species can be distinguished from other *Melita* by the shape of gnathopod 2 propodus and dactylus, and the bifid anterior lobe of female coxa 6.

Distribution. New Zealand. Rangitoto Reef, Auckland Harbour, North Island (Chilton, 1916); ?Cook Strait (Hurley, 1957); Kaikoura, South Island (Fenwick, 1976).

Discussion

Labay (2016: 65) erected the genus *Ledoyeromelita* based on *Melita excavata* Ledoyer, 1979 and tentatively assigned *Melita festiva* (Chilton, 1885) to the new genus as *Ledoyeromelita festiva* (Chilton, 1885). Based on the redescription of *M. festiva* presented here, the species must be excluded from the genus *Ledoyeromelita* Labay, 2016 because: head anteroventral corner rounded, lacking acute process (with acute process in *Ledoyeromelita*); pleon segments 1–2 posterodorsal spines absent (present in *Ledoyeromelita*); urosomite 1 with single posterodorsal spine present (1 dorsal and 2 lateral spines in *Ledoyeromelita*); Mandible palp not reduced (reduced in *Ledoyeromelita*), article 3 subequal to 2, article 2 twice length of article 1 (articles 1–2 subequal in *Ledoyeromelita*), palp article 3 with 5 apical setae and 3 marginal setae (2 apical setae only in *Ledoyeromelita*); maxilla 1 inner plate with 9 apical plumose setae (4 setae in *Ledoyeromelita*); maxilla 2 inner plate oblique setal row absent (present in *Ledoyeromelita*); coxae 1–3 cusps on posteroventral margin absent (cusps present in *Ledoyeromelita*); gnathopod 1 basis antero-distal setae present (absent in *Ledoyeromelita*); gnathopod 2 heavily setose with numerous rows of setae on medial surface (absent in *Ledoyeromelita*); pereopods 5 to 7 with numerous setal bunches on merus, carpus, and propodus (setae sparse in *Ledoyeromelita*) and pereopod 6 merus large excavation on anterior margin absent (present in *Ledoyeromelita*).

Melita festiva (Chilton, 1885) fits the diagnosis of *Melita* (as outlined by Labay, 2016: 47) mainly in the morphology of the mouthparts, configuration of urosomite 2 armaments, and uropod 3 rami shape. However, *Melita festiva* and *Melita lowryi* do not have a sexually dimorphic gnathopod 1 or conventional *Melita*-like male gnathopod 2.

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