



Article

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Siphonoecetini Just, 1983 (Crustacea, Amphipoda, Ischyroceridae) 10: *Belginoecetes* gen. nov., *Tropicoecetes* gen. nov. and *Rhinoecetes* Just, 1983 from north-eastern and northern Australian shallow water, with eight new species

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Abstract

Two new genera and eight new species of bubocorophiid Siphonoecetini are described from north-eastern and northern Australia: *Belginoecetes bullockyensis* **gen. et sp. nov.**, *B. cooeae* **sp. nov.** (type species), *B. darwiniense* **sp. nov.**, *B. fleurae* **sp. nov.**, *B. solea* **sp. nov.**, *B. springthorpei* **sp. nov.**, *Tropicoecetes carinata* **gen. et sp. nov.**, *Rhinoecetes anneae* **sp. nov.** The concept of bubocorophiid siphonoecetids and their distribution along eastern and northern Australia is briefly discussed. A key to species of *Belginoecetes* **gen. nov.** is presented.

Key words: Amphipoda, Ischyroceridae, Siphonoecetini, Australia, *Belginoecetes* **gen. nov.**, *Tropicoecetes* **gen. nov.**, *Rhinoecetes*.

Introduction

The Australian bubocorophiid Siphonoecetini (sensu Just, 1988) from Moreton Bay, Queensland, south to Bass Strait, Victoria, and Tasmania were treated by Just (2012). In that paper six new species of *Rhinoecetes* Just, 1983 were described together with one species in each of the new genera *Cephaloecetes* and *Neoecetes*. The present study treats the bubocorophiid fauna of north-eastern and northern Australia from north of Moreton Bay to Darwin, Northern Territory. The material, most of which was collected by the author (AU station numbers), comprises 8 new species in three genera: *Belginoecetes* **gen. nov.** (6 species), *Tropicoecetes* **gen. nov.** (1) and *Rhinoecetes* (1). This brings the total number of Australian bubocorophiid species to 17. In addition *Rhinoecetes ?rhinoceros* Just, 2012 is reported. Referral of the new genera to the informal bubocorophiid group (Just, 1988) of Siphonoecetini in spite of some reductions in the urosome is discussed.

Methods

Measurements and colour notes are as detailed in Just (2012: 3). Institutional abbreviations are: AM, Australian Museum, Sydney; NMV Museum Victoria, Melbourne; MAGNT, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin; QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane; ZMUC, Natural History Museum of Denmark (Zoological Museum), University of Copenhagen.

Implicit characters

The following characters are implicit for the species treated in this study. Relevant characters are repeated in diagnoses of the new genera, but are not repeated in species descriptions unless deviations occur.