



# Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8E0532A2-2BA1-41E1-8BAD-5ED0640C6691

## Talitrid amphipods from ocean beaches along the New South Wales coast of Australia (Amphipoda, Talitridae)

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### Abstract

The sand-hopper *Bellorchestia mariae* **sp. nov.** is described from Honeymoon Bay on the north coast of Jervis Bay, New South Wales, Australia. It is the sister species of *B. richardsoni* Serejo & Lowry, 2008 and appears to have a limited distribution from about Narrawallee in the south to northern Jervis Bay. The distribution of *B. richardsoni* Serejo & Lowry, 2008 is extended from Point Ricardo, Victoria, northwards to Ulladulla on the New South Wales coast. A new synonymy is proposed for the sand-hopper *Notorchestia quadrimana* (Dana, 1852) which includes *N. novaehollandiae* (1899) and *N. lobata* Serejo & Lowry, 2008. It is considered to be a wide-ranging species from Shark Bay in Western Australia around the south coast to at least Maitland Bay in central New South Wales. The beach-hopper *Orchestia dispar* Dana, 1852 is described from Valla Beach in northern New South Wales and moved to the new genus *Vallorchestia*. This is the first record of *V. dispar* since its original description 160 years ago. The beach-hopper *Platorchestia smithi* **sp. nov.** is described from Brooms Head, New South Wales, Australia. It is common on ocean beaches from Bendalong in the south to Ballina in northern New South Wales. South of Bendalong beach-hoppers on ocean beaches appear to be absent.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Talitridae, Australia, New South Wales, taxonomy, new genus, new species, *Bellorchestia*, *Notorchestia*, *Platorchestia*, *Vallorchestia*

### Introduction

Along the coast of New South Wales five species of talitrids are known from ocean beaches: the sand-hoppers *Bellorchestia mariae* **sp. nov.**, *Bellorchestia richardsoni* Serejo & Lowry, 2008, and *Notorchestia quadrimana* (Dana, 1852); and the beach-hoppers *Platorchestia smithi* **sp. nov.** and *Vallorchestia dispar* (Dana, 1852). *Bellorchestia richardsoni* is the southern-most species, occurring along the south-eastern coast of Victoria from Point Ricardo, Victoria (about 38°S) to as far north as Ulladulla (35°21'S) in New South Wales. *Bellorchestia mariae* appears to have a narrow distribution from Narrawallee (35°18'S) to the north coast of Jervis Bay (35°03'S). *Notorchestia quadrimana* is also a southern species found as far north as Maitland Bay (33°31'S) in central New South Wales. *Platorchestia smithi* first occurs on beaches in the area of Bendalong (about 35°S) and dominates ocean beach talitrids to at least Ballina (28°52'S) in northern New South Wales. *Vallorchestia dispar* is currently known from Smiths Lake (32°23'S) to Valla Beach area (30°35'S) in northern New South Wales.

In this paper: two new species *Bellorchestia mariae* **sp. nov.** and *Platorchestia smithi* **sp. nov.** are described; the range of *Bellorchestia richardsoni* is expanded; the new genus *Vallorchestia* is described for *Orchestia dispar* Dana, 1852 and a neotype is selected; *Talorchestia quadrimana* (Dana, 1852) is moved to the genus *Notorchestia* and a neotype is selected. *Notorchestia novaehollandiae* (Stebbing, 1899) and *N. lobata* Serejo & Lowry, 2008 become junior synonyms of *N. quadrimana*.

### Material and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the talitrid genera and species of the world. Setal terminology follows Watling (1989). Generic diagnostic characters are based on Lowry & Bopiah