

Terrestrial Amphipods (Amphipoda: Talitridae) of Tasmania : Systematics and Zoogeography

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ABSTRACT. Amphipods of the family Talitridae form an important part of the cryptozoa of Tasmanian forests. The terrestrial amphipod fauna of the Tasmanian mainland consists of fifteen species. The previously widely used grouping of land amphipods into the genera *Orchestia* and *Talitrus* is considered unsatisfactory and consequently a number of genera are created to receive the Tasmanian species. Three new genera, *Neorchestia*, *Orchestiella* and *Tasmanorchestia*, are described, and *Mysticotalitrus*, *Arcitalitrus* and *Keratroides* are raised to generic status. Twelve new species, *Austrotroides longicornis*, *A. leptomerus*, *A. maritimus*, *Neorchestia plicibrancha*, *Mysticotalitrus cryptus*, *Arcitalitrus bassianus*, *Keratroides albidus*, *K. rex*, *K. pyrensis*, *Orchestiella neambulans*, *O. quasimodo* and *Tasmanorchestia annulata*, are described. *Mysticotalitrus tasmaniae* is redescribed, and a description of the male is given. *Keratroides vulgaris* and *K. angulosus* are also recorded from Tasmania, and *Protaustrotroides victoriae* from King Island. *Talitrus assimilis* is considered a doubtful species. Among the Tasmanian fauna (excluding *P. victoriae*), four of the seven genera, but only one of the fifteen species also occurs on the Australian mainland. Examination of geological and paleoclimatic data suggests that this is due to the conditions which prevailed on the Bassian isthmus during Tertiary and late Quaternary times.

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