Australian *Renocila* Miers, 1880 (Isopoda: Cymothoidae),
Crustacean Parasites of Marine Fishes

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**ABSTRACT.** The Australian species of the genus *Renocila* are recorded for the first time. Three species are recorded: *R. ovata* Miers, *R. alkoo* n. sp., and *R. plesiopi* n. sp. *Lironeca dubia* Nierstrasz is found to be a synonym of *Renocila ovata*. The genus *Rosca* Schiodte & Meinert is placed in synonymy with *Renocila*. A synoptic list of all Indo-Pacific species of *Renocila* is given, as well as a new generic diagnosis and a key to the Australian species.


The genus *Renocila* was previously known from Australia by a single record of an unidentified species (Healy & Yaldwyn, 1970). The genus is apparently uncommon in Australian waters there being few specimens in museum collections, while 6 weeks of field work on the Great Barrier Reef (2–4 hours under water each day) failed to obtain any fresh material.

The genus has four species in the Caribbean (Williams & Williams, 1980), and eight species in the Indo-Pacific. Of the Indo-Pacific species two, *R. periophthalma* and *R. recta*, are based on juvenile specimens which lack the species-specific characters of the adult. The status and identity of these two species are therefore uncertain. The number of species is likely to increase, for I have seen specimens of another two *Renocila* species from Australia, but lack sufficient material to describe them, while material recorded by Richardson (1910) as *R. ovata* (USNM 40494, also USNM 231172-4) is an undescribed species. The distribution of *Renocila* around Australia and Indonesia is given in Figure 9.

A key to the Australian genera of externally attaching cymothoid isopods was given by Bruce (1987). Material and methods follow that of Bruce (1987). Abbreviations used are as follows: AM – Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW; BMNH – British Museum (Natural History), London; GBR – Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia; NMW – Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna; Qld – Queensland, Australia; QM – Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Qld; RMNH – Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden; USNM – Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; WA – Western Australia; WAM – Western Australian Museum, Perth, WA; ZMA – Zoologisch Museum, University of Amsterdam.

**TAXONOMY**

*Renocila* Miers


*Rosca* Schiodte & Meinert, 1881: 85.—Stebbing, 1924: 10.

Type species. *Renocila ovata* Miers, 1880, by monotypy.

Diagnosis of female. Rostrum wide, anterior part folded under and back, not triangular, not projecting between antennules. Cephalon posterior margin not trisinuate. Coxae 2 and 3 as long or longer than respective pereonite; coxae 5–7 shorter than pereonite, posteriorly acute. Posterolateral margins of pereonites 6–7 produced, not narrowed or tapered. Pleonites 1–2 ventrolateral margins not produced, posteroventral margins not acute. Antennule subequal to or shorter in length than antenna. Mandible palp articles 1, or 1 and 2