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Chapter 7. Suborder Phoratopidea

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A diagnosis is provided for one family containing one genus and one species of marine isopod of the suborder Phoratopidea. Ecology and distribution are discussed with citation of literature critical for further investigation.

Keywords Phoratopodidae

Introduction

The single species, known from two specimens from South Australia (Hale, 1925), was redescribed by Bruce (1981). While superficially similar to cymothoidans, the species has uniquely wide merus–propodus on pereopods 4 and 5 with greatly reduced dactyli. Bruce (1981) noted similarities with some idoteid valviferans. Brandt and Poore (2003) placed the species in its own suborder.

Diagnosis. Head–pereonite 1 free. Pereopodal coxal dorsal plates 1–6 present; coxal dorsal plate 1 fused to tergite; coxal dorsal plate 7 absent (coxal dorsal plate 6 and pleonal 1 or 2 epimeron in contact); ventral coxal plates 1–7 (medial extension of coxa replacing sternite) obsolete (not distinguished from sternite). Pleotelson incorporating pleonite 6 only, pleonites 1–5 free. Pleotelson underside flat, without ventrolateral ridges (pleopods not enclosed laterally). Mandibular lacinia mobilis present on

both sides; molar flat triangular blade-like or conical process; palp present. Maxilla trilobed. Maxillipedal endite reaching at least distal margin of palp article 2, usually distally truncate and setose. Pereopods 4 and 5 merus–propodus much wider than those of pereopods 2 and 3, with reduced dactyli. Pleopodal exopods uniarticulate. Pleopods 1 and 2 biramous. Pleopod 3 biramous; endopod more or less oval or rectangular, rounded distally. Telsonic region of pleotelson elongate, anus situated anteriorly on pleotelson. Uropod situated anterolaterally on pleotelson; peduncle not operculate; rami ventral to pleotelson, articulating from side to side in vertical axis inside branchial chamber.

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Phoratopodidae Hale, 1925

Figure 7.1

Phoratopus Hale, 1925

Shelf (79 m). Temperate South Australia. 1 species, *Phoratopus remex* Hale, 1925.

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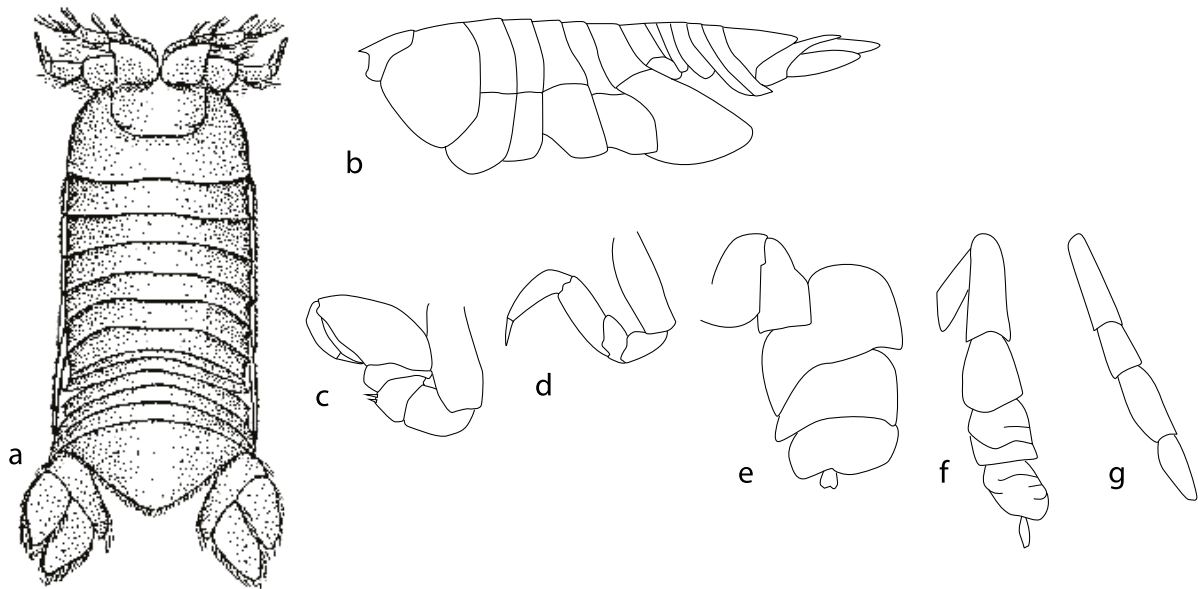


Figure 7.1. Phoratopodidae, *Phoratopus remex* Hale, 1925. a, b, habitus; c–g, pereopods 1, 2, 5, 6, 7. Fig. 7.1a from Hale (1925).