

Corophiidea (Crustacea: Amphipoda) from Mauritius

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ABSTRACT. Twenty-three species of corophiidean amphipod are recorded from Mauritius of which six are new to science and five species are recorded for the first time from the island. Full descriptions and figures are provided for the six new species together with diagnoses and selected figures of other species recorded in the present work. A key to the species of the genera *Ampithoe*, *Cymadusa*, *Bemlos* and *Erichthonius* of Mauritius is also provided.

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Corophiideans are amphipods (Crustacea, Amphipoda, Corophioidea) characterized by a fleshy entire telson thickly attached at the base (J.L. Barnard & Karaman, 1991). Corophiideans of the Western Indian Ocean are not well known with the exception of the Aoridae which have been studied relatively extensively in the past thirty years in East Africa (Myers, 1975a, 1975b, 1985b; Griffiths, 1973, 1974a, 1974b), South Africa (Myers & Lyons, 1987) and Madagascar (Myers, 1972; Ledoyer, 1982, 1986).

This paper deals with the corophiideans of Mauritius. Those collected in the present study were: eleven species of Ampithoidae of which five are new to science and one was previously unrecorded from Mauritius, six species of Aoridae, one of which is new to science and two of which are recorded for the first time from Mauritius, two species of Photidae, one widespread in the Indo-Pacific, the other an unassigned species in the *Gammaropsis atlantica* complex, and three species of Ischyroceridae, two of which were previously known from the region and one of which is recorded from the Indian Ocean for the first time.

Diagnoses are provided for all species recorded in this study. Keys are provided for species of the genera *Ampithoe*, *Cymadusa*, *Bemlos* and *Erichthonius*. Full descriptions and figures are provided for new species and for species which are poorly known or for which there is some confusion with synonymy in literature [for example, *Cymadusa microphthalma* (Chevreux)]. Selected figures are provided for other species.

Materials and methods

Amphipods were collected from algae, seagrass and coral rubble from 24 sites (see Appadoo *et al.*, 2002: 767, fig.1) around the island of Mauritius and from Ile D'Ambre, a small island within the lagoon of Mauritius on the northeast coast from February 1998 to February 2000. The sites were visited at low tide and samples were collected from the intertidal and shallow subtidal zones. Algae and rubble were collected by scraping them off their substrates using a small hand trowel. Amphipods were extracted using the formalin-wash method (J.L. Barnard, 1976).

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