

The Amphipoda (Crustacea) of New Caledonia: Aoridae

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ABSTRACT. Fourteen species of Aoridae are recorded from New Caledonia. Seven species are described and figured in full, including one genus and five species new to science and two species presented in new nomenclatural combination. A further three species are partially figured. New Caledonia is shown to display Australian plate biogeographic relationships.

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Collections of marine amphipods were made by the writer, J.K. Lowry and I. Takeuchi in Grande Terre, New Caledonia, and in the Loyalty Islands during October and November, 1995. Fourteen species of Aoridae in seven genera were collected and are reported on here. Of these, one genus and four species are new to science. Six species are currently thought to be New Caledonian endemics.

Of the fourteen Aoridae reported from New Caledonia, seven are, as far as is currently known, endemic. This is more endemic aorids than has Fiji, 43% (Myers, 1985b), Madang Lagoon 30% (Myers, 1995), Samoa, 20% (Myers, 1997) or Tonga (Myers, 1986), which has no endemic aorids. New Caledonia and Fiji in addition to their high species endemicity, also each have an endemic aorid genus.

Seven New Caledonian species have extrinsic distributions, three, *Bemlos aequimanus*, *Bemlos waipio* and *Globosolembos excavatus* have wide Indo-Pacific distributions. Three species, *Bemlos tui*, *Bemlos saloteae*

and *Globosolembos lunatus* occur within the area bounded by Samoa and Tonga in the east and Papua New Guinea and eastern Australia in the west. *Xenocheira* sp. is reported from Australia but may be synonymous with *X. securati* recorded from Fiji and the Gambier archipelago.

With regard to the Aoridae, New Caledonia therefore shows rather typical Australian plate relationships, sharing taxa to the west with Australia and Papua New Guinea and to the north and east with islands on the Vanuatu-Tonga island arc.

The following abbreviations are used in the figures: A, antenna; Lb, labrum; Mx, maxilla; Md, mandible; Mxp, maxilliped; L, labium; G, gnathopod; P, pereopod; Ep, epimeron; U, uropod; T, telson. AM, Australian Museum, Sydney; NCL, New Caledonia; ORSTOM, Organisation de Recherche Scientifique Territoire Outre-Mer. All material is ultimately to be deposited in the Australian Museum. The type material is in the Australian Museum.