

## Ampithoidae and Maeridae Amphipods from Timor-Leste (Crustacea: Peracarida)

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**ABSTRACT.** Five known and four new species of amphipod are documented from Timor-Leste. The species biodiversity of the region shows a close affinity to what is known from tropical north Australia. Although records of amphipods from the Lesser Sunda Region are limited, the species recorded have distributions throughout the broader Indo-Pacific. The new species *Ampithoe atauru*, *Elasmopus tibarensis*, *Linguimaera christorei* and *Quadrinemaera metinara* are described herein.

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Studies of amphipods from the Indonesian Archipelago have been based on small collections. Early works by from The Siboga Expedition collected amphipod specimens from the Lesser Sunda Region, Sulawesi, Sulu Archipelago, North and South Moluccas and Irian Jaya (Pirlot, 1932; 1934; 1936; 1938). This extensive work remains the largest study for the region recording over 100 amphipod species.

The Rumphius II Expedition of 1975 resulted in the documentation of over 30 amphipod species from the North Moluccas by Ledoyer (1979). Collections from the Grigor Antipa study by Ortiz & Lalana (1997, 1999, 2003; Gutu, 1997) documented 69 amphipod taxa from the Indonesian Archipelago including Pati (Java), Bali (Lesser Sunda Region), Bontang (Borneo), Bunaken (northern Sulawesi) and Maros (southern Sulawesi). A single species from West Java, *Quadrinemaera franzi* Krapp-Schickel & Ruffo, 2006 described from Pulu Putri was included in a larger work on the genus. Eight corophiidean amphipods are documented from Bali (Lesser Sunda Region) by Krapp-Schickel & Myers (2006).

The rare interstitial beach amphipods from the North Moluccas have been recently treated by Vonk *et al.*, (2011) and Vonk & Juame (2013, 2014) with 3 species described from 2 families.

The Australian Museum collection of amphipods from Timor-Leste further expands our knowledge on the fauna from the developing area of Lesser Sunda Region, reporting five known and four new species.

### Materials and methods

The material examined for this study was collected during the Australian Museum Timor-Leste Expedition in September 2012. Sampling in the field was by hand on Scuba. A map to all Australian Museum Timor-Leste marine collection locations is shown in Fig. 1. All material examined is deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). Material was dissected in 80% ethanol. Permanent slides were made using Aquatex mounting agent. Illustrations were made using a Leitz Laborlux K and Wilde Heerbrugg stereomicroscopes fitted with camera lucida. Abbreviations for parts are as follows: *A*—antenna; *F*—accessory flagellum; *G*—gnathopod; *L*—left; *LL*—lower lip; *Md*—mandible; *Mx*—maxilla; *p*—palp; *P*—pereopod; *R*—right; *T*—telson; *U*—uropod; and *UL*—upper lip. Descriptions were generated from an Open DELTA database of the Ampithoidae and Maeridae, containing all Indo-Pacific species of *Ampithoe*, *Elasmopus*, *Linguimaera* and *Quadrinemaera*, respectively. Station numbers for the expedition are of the form TM 2012-*n* where *n* is a unique sample number useful when studying species assemblages.