

## Obituary—Dr Jim Lowry

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James Kenneth Lowry devoted his life and career to the study of the Amphipoda. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri on 2 October 1942 and grew up in Chuckatuck near Chesapeake Bay, Virginia. Living around Chesapeake Bay stirred Jim's interest in natural places, the sea and estuaries, and led to a BA majoring in Biology at the University of Richmond, Virginia.

Jim completed an MA in Marine Science at the College of William and Mary in Virginia in 1969. Much of this work was carried out at Palmer Station, a United States Antarctic research station on Anvers Island, where Jim studied the soft bottom benthic community of Arthur Harbour. Jim was recognized for his time at Palmer Station by having Mount Lowry (1,020 m a.s.l.) in the Pensacola Mountains, Antarctica, named after him.

Jim's interest in the Antarctic was central to his research for the next decade. He was enticed to the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, to undertake a PhD with Professor George Knox, who had extensive experience in studying Antarctic biology and established the Antarctic Research Institute. Jim studied the effects of latitude on marine soft bottom communities and was awarded his PhD in 1976 for his thesis "Studies on the macrobenthos of the Southern Ocean". Prof. Knox used his many contacts in Antarctic research to secure berths on ice breakers and other vessels to allow Jim to work in Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic waters, including Cape Bird, Campbell Islands, Auckland Islands and Stewart Island. Jim spent two winters at the New Zealand base on Ross Island near McMurdo Station.

Jim maintained his interest in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic when he joined the Australian Museum as Curator of Crustacea in 1976. Jim organized and led an expedition to Macquarie Island in the summer of 1977–1978 accompanied by Dr Donald Horning, Dr Gary Poore and Rob Rucker. The team performed 84 scuba dives, collecting 406 marine samples of invertebrates and algae. Although Jim had been collecting and studying the macrobenthos, by this time the Amphipoda had singularly captured his attention and they would hold his focus for the remainder of his career

at the Australian Museum (retiring as a Principal Research Scientist in 2015), and as a Senior Fellow of the museum until his death.

Jim was intrigued by the biogeography of the Sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand and Australia. He worked on amphipod collections from The Snares, Auckland Islands, Campbell Islands and Macquarie Island and described the gammaridean Amphipoda in papers jointly authored with Helen Stoddart and Dr Graham Fenwick.

Jim's interest in biogeography and lysianassoid amphipods led to questions about the role of scavenging guilds along the Australian east coast. The result was the SEAS project (Scavengers of Eastern Australian Seas, 1993–1996): an ambitious project, to sample scavenging Crustacea using baited traps set from small fishing boats at six sites from Cairns (latitude 16°41'S) to Hobart (43°08'S) along cross-shelf transects from 50 m to 1000 m depth. Jim successfully sought funding for this project from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and collected 283 species of invertebrate scavengers represented by approximately 800,000 individuals, with almost 70% of the species new to science. The project revealed the complex composition of scavenging guilds in Australian waters.

In 2005 the amphipod fauna of the Great Barrier Reef was still poorly known and the Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station provided the perfect location to collect and describe the amphipod fauna. Jim and Dr Penny Berents raised funds and organized a workshop to bring together 20 Australian and international taxonomists at Lizard Island. Jim and Prof. Alan Myers encouraged and cajoled the workshop participants who documented and described 256 amphipod species from the Great Barrier Reef in a 930 page monograph published by *Zootaxa* (Lowry & Myers, 2009).

Jim was a taxonomist at heart, publishing his first taxonomic paper in 1972 on *Microprotopus*. His research focus for many years was to describe the Australian lysianassoids and revise the world families of Amphipoda. Much of this work was done with Helen Stoddart, and later