

Four New Species of *Micromaldane* (Polychaeta: Maldanidae) from Eastern Australia

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ABSTRACT. Four new species of *Micromaldane* (Polychaeta: Maldanidae) found intertidally on the eastern rocky coast and coral reefs of Australia are described. A key to all species of *Micromaldane* is provided. The generic definition is discussed and emended.

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The Nicomachinae is one of five subfamilies within the Maldanidae. It is a small group with only three genera: *Nicomache* Malmgren, 1865, *Petaloproctus* Quatrefages, 1865, and *Micromaldane* Mesnil, 1897 (Fauchald, 1977). To date there has been only one previous record of the genus *Micromaldane* from Australian waters, an unidentified species from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef (Reichelt, 1979).

The type species *Micromaldane ornithochaeta* Mesnil, 1897, originally found on the French Atlantic coast, has subsequently been recorded from Ireland (Southern, 1914), Norfolk (Hammond, 1966), British Columbia (Berkeley & Berkeley, 1962) and the Antarctic (Fauvel, 1951). To date there have been two additional species described: *Micromaldane bispinosa* Hartmann-Schröder, 1962 from the Red Sea and *M. jonesi* Kumaraswamy Achari, 1968, from the Indian Ocean.

While maldanids are regarded as common in continental

shelf sediments (Fauchald, 1977) there have been few records of this family in Australian waters (see Day & Hutchings, 1979), possibly due to lack of sampling in these areas. Examination of the intertidal algal mats of the rocky shores around Sydney, New South Wales has revealed two new species of *Micromaldane*. An additional two new species have also been found from One Tree Reef, Great Barrier Reef.

Materials and Methods

Collections of algal mats were made from the lower intertidal zone at the sites indicated in the text. This material was then sorted under a binocular microscope. All species described here have distinctive sandy tubes and have to be coaxed out by probing the head of the worm so that it