

# AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *HALIOPHASMA* (CRUSTACEA: ISOPODA: ANTHURIDAE)

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## SUMMARY

*Haliophasma purpureum* Haswell, 1881, types species of the genus, and nine new species of *Haliophasma* (*H. canale*, *H. cribensis*, *H. cycneum*, *H. falcatum*, *H. pugnatum* and *H. yarra* from Port Phillip and Western Port Bays in Victoria; *H. elongatum* and *H. pinnatum* from the New South Wales shelf; and *H. syrtis* from Moreton Bay, Queensland) are described and figured. A key to these species is presented and their relationships discussed. The genus *Haliophasma* is redefined and the status of some of its previously included species is questioned.

## INTRODUCTION

The family Anthuridae is at present known to be represented in Australia by 15 species in 9 genera. However, examination of material from recent surveys of the soft-bottom benthos in bays and coastal waters near major population centres in the southeast of the country has revealed the existence of many more species. This paper is the first of what I hope to be a series describing this group.

The genus *Haliophasma* was erected by Haswell (1881) for two species of anthurid isopod, *H. purpureum* and *H. maculatum* from Port Jackson, Australia. Barnard (1925a) placed *H. maculatum* in *Mesanthura*, leaving *H. purpureum* as type species. Twelve additional species of *Haliophasma* have subsequently been described from South Africa, West Africa, southern California, the Mediterranean Sea and Venezuela.

In this paper the type species and nine new species from Australia are described. The generic diagnosis is rewritten and a key to Australian species presented. The status of the non-Australian species is discussed.