

A Third Species of *Aatolana* Bruce, 1993 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Cirolanidae)

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ABSTRACT. A third species of *Aatolana* is described from material collected in baited traps deployed off the north east coast of Australia. This species can be distinguished from the other species in the genus principally by the morphology of the frontal lamina, coxa 7 and uropods, length of the antennae, and setation of pereopod 7 and the pleotelson. A key to the three species in the genus, an emended generic diagnosis and a discussion of the systematic position of the genus are also presented based on the examination of new material. This examination shows that, of the apomorphies which have been suggested to characterise species of *Aatolana*, only the enlarged and setose epimera of pleonite 3 can be recognised as a putative unique synapomorphy that unambiguously defines the genus. The morphology of the frontal lamina of the new species of *Aatolana* described here is also recognised as an additional character shared with species of *Booralana* Bruce, 1986, further suggesting a close relationship between species in these two genera.

KEABLE, S.J., 1998. A third species of *Aatolana* Bruce, 1993 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Cirolanidae). Records of the Australian Museum 50(1): 19–26.

Species in the family Cirolanidae are among the most commonly encountered isopod crustaceans in shallow marine environments (Bruce, 1993a). Many cirolanid isopods are scavengers, feeding on the carcasses of animals they have not captured and killed themselves, and cause losses to fisheries by feeding on baits or catches (Stepien & Brusca, 1985; Bruce, 1986; Berrow, 1994; Mizzan, 1995). The importance of scavenging cirolanid isopods to marine food chains has been suggested by Keable (1995) who also described the design of a baited trap which can be used to readily sample these and other scavengers.

Recent revisions of the Cirolanidae include those of Bruce (1981a, 1986) and Brusca *et al.* (1995). Bruce (1981a: 961, 1986: 140, 223) considered that *Cirolana schioedtei* Miers, 1884 could not be readily placed in *Cirolana* because this species possesses several characters

that are not shared with other species placed in this genus. Recognition of a second species similar to *C. schioedtei* provided Bruce (1993b) with a foundation to establish the genus *Aatolana* to accommodate these two species. Further records of these species were provided by Keable (1997). Keable (1997) also designated a lectotype for *A. schioedtei* and suggested that previous records of this species need to be revised because they may include records of undescribed species of *Aatolana*. Examination of material collected with baited traps during the SEAS (Scavengers of East Australian Seas) project (J.K. Lowry, unpublished data) revealed the existence of a third species of *Aatolana* which is described here. This allows some further information to be added to the generic diagnosis and discussion of relationships to other genera provided by Bruce (1993b) for *Aatolana*.