

Australian *Renocila* Miers, 1880 (Isopoda: Cymothoidae), Crustacean Parasites of Marine Fishes

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ABSTRACT. The Australian species of the genus *Renocila* are recorded for the first time. Three species are recorded: *R. ovata* Miers, *R. alkoo* n. sp., and *R. plesiopi* n. sp. *Lironeca dubia* Nierstrasz is found to be a synonym of *Renocila ovata*. The genus *Rosca* Schiödte & Meinert is placed in synonymy with *Renocila*. A synoptic list of all Indo-Pacific species of *Renocila* is given, as well as a new generic diagnosis and a key to the Australian species.

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The genus *Renocila* was previously known from Australia by a single record of an unidentified species (Healy & Yaldwyn, 1970). The genus is apparently uncommon in Australian waters there being few specimens in museum collections, while 6 weeks of field work on the Great Barrier Reef (2-4 hours under water each day) failed to obtain any fresh material.

The genus has four species in the Caribbean (Williams & Williams, 1980), and eight species in the Indo-Pacific. Of the Indo-Pacific species two, *R. periophthalma* and *R. recta*, are based on juvenile specimens which lack the species-specific characters of the adult. The status and identity of these two species are therefore uncertain. The number of species is likely to increase, for I have seen specimens of another two *Renocila* species from Australia, but lack sufficient material to describe them, while material recorded by Richardson (1910) as *R. ovata* (USNM 40494, also USNM 231172-4) is an undescribed species. The distribution of *Renocila* around Australia and Indonesia is given in Figure 9.

A key to the Australian genera of externally attaching cymothoid isopods was given by Bruce (1987). Material and methods follow that of Bruce (1987). Abbreviations used are as follows: **AM** – Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW; **BMNH** – British Museum (Natural History), London; **GBR** – Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia; **NMW** – Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna; **Qld** – Queensland, Australia; **QM** – Queensland Museum,

Brisbane, Qld; **RMNH** – Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden; **USNM** – Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; **WA** – Western Australia; **WAM** – Western Australian Museum, Perth, WA; **ZMA** – Zoologisch Museum, University of Amsterdam.

TAXONOMY

Renocila Miers

Renocila Miers, 1880: 464.—Gerstaecker, 1882: 232; Schiödte & Meinert, 1884: 415; Stebbing, 1900: 610; Barnard, 1936: 160; Bowman & Mariscal, 1968: 100; Brusca, 1981: 146.

Rosca Schiödte & Meinert, 1881: 85.—Stebbing, 1924: 10.

Type species. *Renocila ovata* Miers, 1880, by monotypy.

Diagnosis of female. Rostrum wide, anterior part folded under and back, not triangular, not projecting between antennules. Cephalon posterior margin not trisinate. Coxae 2 and 3 as long or longer than respective pereonite; coxae 5-7 shorter than pereonite, posteriorly acute. Posterolateral margins of pereonites 6-7 produced, not narrowed or tapered. Pleonites 1-2 ventrolateral margins not produced, posterolateral margins not acute.

Antennule subequal to or shorter in length than antenna. Mandible palp articles 1, or 1 and 2

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