

*Achaeus* includes about 20 rather small species inhabiting mostly continental shelf waters. Some of the included species are now comparatively well known, the Japanese ones having been treated by Sakai (1938) and the South African ones by Barnard (1950), but there appears to be still room for revision of some of the species. The type species has recently been redescribed by Forest and Zariquiey Alvarez (1955). The genus as at present understood seems a compact and natural one, the species agreeing in many important features such as form of the rostrum and orbit, ornamentation of the carapace, shape of the male abdomen and form of the male first pleopod.

KEY TO THE NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *Achaeus*

- 1 (2) Rostrum of two short acute spines. Supraorbital eave bearing laterally a prominent spine and several minute spinules; several small postorbital spinules present. Eyestalk with a prominent tubercle midway along anterior surface. Carapace with several tubercles dorsally including a prominent cardiac tubercle sometimes surmounted by two spinules and a small tubercle close to posterior margin of carapace. Dactyli of ambulatories 3 and 4 not markedly falcate, ventrally spinulated for entire length ..... *A. fissifrons* (Haswell, 1879)
- 2 (1) Rostrum of two rounded lobes. Supraorbital eave usually minutely spinulated laterally but lacking a prominent spine. Postorbital spinules absent. Eyestalk smooth or tuberculate.
- 3 (4) Carapace smooth, lacking prominent tubercles. Eyestalk lacking tubercle. Basal antennal article smooth. Rostral lobes with a series of spinules distally. Posterior margin of supraorbital eave and hepatic margin minutely spinulated. Dactyli of ambulatories 3 and 4 very strongly falcate, almost semicircular, ventrally spinulated for distal two-thirds only ..... *A. lacertosus* Stimpson, 1857
- 4 (3) Carapace with at least two prominent submedial cardiac tubercles. Eyestalk with a prominent tubercle midway along anterior surface. Basal antennal article spinulated. Rostral lobes without a series of spinules. Dactyli of ambulatories 3 and 4 falcate, but not semicircular, ventrally spinulated for entire length.
- 5 (6) Rostrum of two strong, but blunt lobes, separated by a narrow V- or U-shaped hiatus, and often weakly convergent distally. Cardiac submedial tubercles followed immediately behind by a small intestinal tubercle; carapace otherwise with a few scattered tubercles. Chelipeds smooth except for a few tubercles on medial and lateral surfaces of merus and carpus and dorsal surface of propodus; dactyl in mature male with a prominent basal tubercle, fixed finger deeply excavated, a strong tooth at each end of excavation ..... *A. brevisrostris* (Haswell, 1879),  
(= *A. affinis* Miers, 1884)