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A Common but Hitherto Undescribed Species of *Orchomenella*
(Crustacea Amphipoda: Family Lysianassidae) from the
Ross Sea

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Abstract

A common Lysianassid Amphipod of the Genus *Orchomenella* which has been frequently recorded from the Antarctic but confused with such species as *Orchomenella chilensis*, *Orchomenella rossi* and *Orchomenella proxima* is described as a new species.

INTRODUCTION

LATE in 1961, I received a collection of amphipods made by Dr John S. Pearse, of the Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, under the auspices of the U.S. Antarctic Programme of the National Science Foundation. Amongst these were several hundred Lysianassids which had been collected at White Island in the Ross Sea during an examination of the fauna living under the Ross Ice Shelf (Littlepage & Pearse, 1962; Pearse, 1963). At that time, I provisionally identified two very similar species, *Orchomenella rossi* (Walker, 1903; Hurley, 1965b), which formed at most 10% of the collection, and another species of *Orchomenella* which made up the bulk of the collection. These latter specimens were not easily identified with any of the known Antarctic species. This was surprising in view of the considerable number already described, especially since the species has a peculiarly distinctive gnathopod 1 sideplate, but its resemblance to *O. rossi* in this and several other features is no doubt partly responsible for its non-recognition by earlier workers.

Apart from some obvious differences in pereopods 3-5 (which are not as obvious in drawings as they are when the species are laid side by side) and in the 3rd uropods, the second species could easily be confused with *O. rossi* as shown in Walker's original drawings. Previous misidentification as *O. chilensis* is mostly due to the somewhat unjustified reputation of *chilensis* as "the common Antarctic Lysianassid" (Hurley, 1965a). However, there were records of *O. proxima* (Chevreux) from the Antarctic (Chevreux, 1906; Schellenberg, 1926) which hinted that the specimens in question might be identical with those from White Island.