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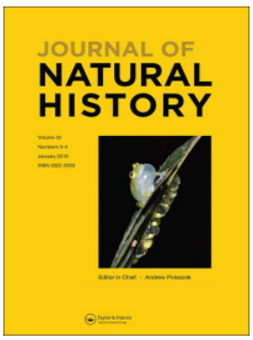

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Redescription of the monotypic micro-predatory isopod genera *Alitropus* H. Milne Edwards, 1840 and *Barybrotes* Schioedte & Meinert, 1879 (Isopoda, Cymothoida), with a taxonomic key to the Cymothooidea Leach, 1814 from India

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ABSTRACT

The two monotypic genera of micropredatory cymothoid isopods, *Alitropus* H. Milne Edwards, 1840 (Aegidae White, 1850) and *Barybrotes* Schioedte and Meinert, 1879 (Barybrotidae Hansen, 1890), are revised and their species redescribed from India. *Alitropus typus* is distinguished by its slender and elongate body, broadly triangular cephalon with the antero-median margin slightly produced, mandible palp longer than mandible and peduncle of uropod long. *Barybrotes indus* Schioedte and Meinert, 1879 is redescribed based on the type and additional material from Indian waters. *Barybrotes indus* is distinguished by its elongated body, large eyes, antero-median rostrum which separates the bases of the antennae, long natatory setae on the pereopods and all seven pairs by dilatation of the joints or garniture of setae are auxiliary to swimming. A key to the Indian family of the superfamily Cymothooidea Leach, 1814 is presented.

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Introduction

Cymothooidea Leach, 1814 is a paraphyletic taxon that includes all predatory, parasitic, blood-sucking or scavenging isopods (Brandt and Poore 2003). The predatory cymothooids include the aegids, barybrotids and corallanids. Aegidae White 1850 are regarded as micropredators rather than parasites that are temporarily attached onto chondrichthyans or osteichthyans fishes; like cymothoids, they are mainly haematophagous (Bruce 2009). The Aegidae are distributed throughout the world's oceans, from the tropics to polar waters (Bruce 1983, 2009). Broadly, Aegidae are marine with a depth range from shallow and surface depths (such as species attaching to shallow-water coral-reef fishes) to a depth of 4609 m, although most species (depth data are not available for a substantial number of species) are recorded from the continental shelf and live at depths between 100 m and approximately 1200 m (Bruce 2009). A total of eight aegid genera have been described worldwide (Boyko et al. 2008; Bruce 2009). Bruce (2009) stated that the large genera *Aega* Leach, 1815, *Aegapheles* Bruce, 2009, *Aegiochus*

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along with precise and detailed drawings of all appendages, and views that were previously unavailable, all of which are given here. The present redescription confirms the validity of *B. indus* as a valid species based on the available information.

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