

**REVISION OF THE GAMMARELLID GROUP, WITH A NEW SPECIES
FROM THE ANDAMAN SEA
(CRUSTACEA, AMPHIPODA, MELITIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports the first record of the gammarellid group in the Andaman Sea. A new species (*Nuuanu kata*) is described and a phylogenetic hypothesis for the group is presented. This hypothesis suggests that there are two main lines of evolution in the gammarellid group. One line (represented by *Gammarella*) is made up of large animals with well developed eyes which live among algae, seagrasses and detrital deposits. In the other line (represented by *Nuuanu*) the animals are small, with poorly developed eyes. This line is more diverse in species and morphology. The species live in anchialine environments, interstitially in marine environments or they may be associated with other invertebrates. Based on this hypothesis, the genus *Nuuanu* is re-established, *Cottesloe* remains in synonymy with *Gammarella*, and *Tabatzius* is synonymised with *Nuuanu*. The gammarellid group is considered to be a sister taxon to the melitid group (*sensu stricto*). The hypothesis also suggests that the gammarellid group is probably a tethyan relict with its least derived species living in the eastern North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea; that the majority of species in the *Gammarella* clade are confined to the western Pacific Ocean; and that the *Nuuanu* clade is the most widespread and diverse part of the gammarellid group, occurring throughout the Indo West Pacific, and the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas.