

A Study of *Anaspides*

Field Nats Observations requested

A German-Australian research team from the University of Rostock and the Australian Museum is studying the distribution of Tasmanian mountain shrimps *Anaspides*, (see photo below). TFNC members will have seen my posts on Facebook, reporting the efforts of Stefan Richter, Christoph Höpel and Markus Grams collecting *Anaspides* from caves down south and some of you may have heard Christoph being interviewed on ABC Local Radio 936. Their research is not only of scientific interest but also has conservation impact because the group is morphologically and genetically far more differentiated than expected. Mountain Shrimps are well known from Mt. Wellington and Mt. Field or in caves at Mole Creek and Hastings/Ida Bay, but also known from other sites in Tasmania. **They are all protected species and cannot be collected without a permit from DPIW.**



The German and Australian researchers would appreciate getting help to learn more about *Anaspides* distribution and for preparation of future study and collection sites. They are asking if TFNC members (and/or bushwalkers) could **please report any observations or photos of *Anaspides*** to them (see their email addresses following). The reports (and photos) should include the name of the observation/ photographed site and/or nearest locality, but preferably include map co-ordinates and even better still GPS co-ords with elevation. Particularly important are observations from the following areas: Wentworth Hills, Butlers Gorge, West Coast Range, Walls of Jerusalem, Mt. Cripps, West of Lake St. Clair (e.g. Mt. Rufus, Mt. Byron), Cradle Mountain, Vale of Belvoir, Black Bluff Range,

Frenchman Cap. **Once again, they are only asking for observation reports of *Anaspides*; please don't collect specimens!** Only a very few specimens will be collected by the researchers when they return next year.

If you have further questions and/or observations to report, please email either or preferably both of the two principal researchers: Stefan Richter in Germany (stefan.richter@uni-rostock.de) or Shane Ahyong at the Australian Museum, Sydney (Shane.Ahyong@austmus.gov.au). If you are interested in the topic, ask them about their research papers (see below).

A note for interest, the anaspidean syncarid shrimps of the genera *Allanaspides*, *Anaspides* and *Paranaspides* were formerly classified to the Family Anaspidae, but since 2017 they have been reclassified to a new Family name: Anaspidesidae, (see reference following).

Ahyong, Shane T. (2016): The Tasmanian Mountain Shrimps, *Anaspides* Thomson, 1894 (Crustacea, Syncarida, Anaspidae). *Records of the Australian Museum* 68(7): 313–364.

Ahyong, Shane T. and Miguel A. Alonso-Zarazaga. (2017): Anaspidesidae, a new family for syncarid crustaceans formerly placed in Anaspidae Thomson, 1893. *Records of the Australian Museum* 69(4): 257–258.

Richter, S.; Schwentner, M.; Wirkner, C.S.; and Ahyong, S.T. (2018): Phylogeny and species diversity of Tasmanian mountain shrimps and their relatives (Crustacea, Anaspidesidae). *Zoologica Scripta* 47(1): 84–105.

Arthur Clarke (03-April-2019)