

ELASIPODIDA

Key to the Families (after Pawson, 1970)

1. Body ovoid, gelatinous, lacking calcareous deposits. Usually a large brim developed anteriorly..... Pelagothuriidae Ludwig, 1894
1. Body bilaterally symmetrical. No conspicuous anterior brim. Calcareous deposits present..... 2.
2. Elongate non-retractile lateral processes present. Skin usually thin, parchment-like or brittle..... Deimatidae Theel, 1882
2. Lateral processes lacking; skin usually thick, gelatinous..... 3.
3. Calcareous deposits include wheels.... Laetmogonidae Ekman, 1925
3. Wheels lacking..... 4.
4. Calcareous deposits most commonly include straight or curved rods and three-armed spicules, rarely minute net-like plates and resette-shaped or elliptical bodies..... Elpidiidae Theel, 1882
4. Deposits simple rods or four-armed bodies, with inwardly curved arms and often an outer central projection..... Psychropotidae Theel, 1882