

FAMILY: THARYBIDAE

Small family comprising two genera with four species. Body small, 1.4 to 3 mm. Cephalothorax oval. Urosome normally long or shortened. Prosome usually separate from pediger; 4th pedigerous segment fused with the 5th, posterior corners of the latter either rounded or elongate and acute. Asymmetrical organs: 5th pair of legs in male, slightly asymmetrical; 5th pair of female and last pedigerous segment of male (in one case). Urosome 4-segmented in female, 5-segmented in male. Anal segment very short. Rostrum simple, with two filaments, or complex, with filaments resting on notched plate. Antennules 23-24-jointed, equal in both sexes. Antennal exopodite 6-jointed, much longer than endopodite. Mouth parts equal in both sexes; distal bristles of first maxilliped modified into sense organs.

Swimming limbs with 3-jointed exopodites, endopodites 1-jointed in first pair, 2-jointed in 2nd pair, 3-jointed in 3rd and 4th pairs. Endopodite joints sometimes fused, resulting in 1-jointed endopodite in 1st and 2nd pairs, 2-jointed in 3rd and 4th pairs. Fifth pair of legs of female uniramous, 3-jointed; distal joint ending in spines; left leg of male with long endopodite, right leg uniramous.