



A new species of *Mesokalliapseudes* Lang, 1956 (Crustacea: Tanaidacea: Kalliapseudidae) from Puerto Rico, with remarks on the genus

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Abstract

A new kalliapseudid species, *Mesokalliapseudes quadriflagellata* n. sp. from Puerto Rico is described and illustrated. It can be distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characteristics: 1) rounded rostrum, 2) pereonites lacking anterolateral apophyses, 3) fixed finger of cheliped two-thirds or more the length of the dactylus, and 4) serrate spiniform seta on the basis of pereopod 1. It is unique in having the inner flagellum of the antennule with 4 articles (all other congeners have 3 articles). Remarks on the genus *Mesokalliapseudes* are presented.

Key words: Crustacea, Tanaidacea, Kalliapseudidae, *Mesokalliapseudes*, Puerto Rico

Introduction

Mesokalliapseudes was originally a subgenus of *Kalliapseudes* Lang, 1956, created to receive the type species, *Kalliapseudes crassus* Menzies, 1953 from the Pacific coast of Mexico, characterized by the dactylus of pereopods 2 and 3 with well-developed sensorial setae, and the lack of an exopodite on the cheliped and pereopod 1. Guțu (2006) elevated the subgenera of *Kalliapseudes* to full generic rank. The genus currently comprises seven species, two in the northeastern Pacific and five in the western Atlantic. Two kalliapseudid species are currently known to occur in Puerto Rican waters: *Psammokalliapseudes granulosus* Brum, 1973 and *Tanapseudes gutui* Hansknecht *et al.*, 2002 (both in the subfamily Tanapseudinae) (Drumm and Heard, 2010).

Examination of Tanaidacea collected from the near-shore waters of Puerto Rico revealed a new species in the genus *Mesokalliapseudes*. In this paper we describe this new species and present remarks on the genus *Mesokalliapseudes*.

Material and methods

The specimens used in this study were collected from five localities in the southwestern region of La Parguera, Puerto Rico during June and August 2008, and October 2009. Sampling locations were East Media Luna, Isla de los Pájaros, North El Palo and Margarita keys in La Parguera Natural Reserve, and El Peñón (Figure 1). Sediment samples from sandy bottoms of La Parguera keys were collected using a van Veen grab (0.25 m²) and samples from El Peñón were collected using PVC corer samplers (8.8 cm diameter, 10 cm, length, 62 cm² area). Samples were filtered through a stainless-steel sieve with a 0.5 mm mesh size and preserved in 4% formalin with Rose Bengal stain. In the laboratory fixed and dyed specimens were hand-sorted from each sediment sample, and preserved in 70% ethanol. Body length was measured from the tip of