

A new species, *Apseudes larseni* (Crustacea: Tanaidacea), from the marine waters of New Zealand

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Abstract

Apseudes larseni, new species, is described from the marine waters of New Zealand in depths of 108–1357 m. The new species belongs to a group of species characterized by the presence of lateral spines on both the carapace and pereonites. *Apseudes larseni* can be distinguished from all but one of these species, *A. graciloides*, by having two pairs of lateral spines on the carapace. *Apseudes larseni* also differs from *A. graciloides* by (1) the lateral spines of pereonite 1 having a different placement, (2) pereonite 2 having four pairs of lateral spines, as opposed to one pair in *A. graciloides*, (3) the cheliped with merus having a ventral spine (absent in *A. graciloides*) and a distinctly shorter and stouter carpus, and (4) pereopod 1 with basis lacking ventral spines (present in *A. graciloides*). The morphological similarity of the two sexes, especially in the similar cheliped and the apparent presence of a reduced genital cone on some female specimens, suggest the possibility that *Apseudes larseni* may be hermaphroditic.

Key words: *Apseudes*, Tanaidacea, Apseudomorpha, Apseudidae, New Zealand

Introduction

The apseudomorphan tanaidaceans of New Zealand are poorly known. Reports of the group are limited to records and descriptions for seven nominal species, four belonging to the family Apseudidae Leach, 1814, two to the family Metapseudidae Lang, 1970, and one to the family Sphyrapidae Guțu, 1980. General knowledge of the marine tanaidacean fauna from New Zealand is limited to the older publications of Chilton (1882, 1883), Thomson (1879, 1880, 1913), Stephensen (1927), Lang (1968), and Gardiner (1973). The first apseudomorphan species described from New Zealand waters was *Apseudes timaruvia* Chilton, 1882, a species that Miller (1940) later transferred to the metapseudid genus *Apseudomorpha* Miller, 1940. Of the seven apseudomorphans known from the