



Parapseudid tanaidaceans (Crustacea: Tanaidacea: Apseudomorpha) from Eastern Australia

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Abstract

Australian tanaidacean specimens from two extensive collections have been analyzed based on material collected from the Bass Strait and slope in the 1970s to 1980s and held in the collections of the Museum Victoria, Melbourne, along with material collected during the Thirteenth International Marine Biological Workshop around Moreton Bay, Queensland, in 2005. A number of new parapseudid taxa were discovered, including one common to both collections. These taxa, representing three species of *Pakistanapseudes*, one of *Saltipedis* and one of a genus new to science, *Remexudes*, are described in the present paper. In addition, the finding of further material of *P. australianus* in Moreton Bay has allowed supplementary description of that species. An identification key to the Australian species of *Pakistanapseudes* is given. The concept of high diversity of Tanaidacea in the Australian fauna is reinforced; the apparent sympatric distribution of congeneric species is accounted for by habitat differences.

Key words: Tanaidacea, Parapseudidae, Australia, *Pakistanapseudes*, *Remexudes*, *Saltipedis*

Introduction

The previous records of Tanaidacea from Australia were reviewed by Bamber (2005), who listed 28 known species, to which should be added *Bathytanais bathybrotus* (Beddard, 1886), and added two new genera and 24 new species from Western Australia. Most recently, Guțu (2006) described 13 new species of apseudomorphans from Australian waters. While the early records are sparse, studies since the end of the 1990s (Larsen, 1999, 2000, 2001; Larsen & Heard, 2001; Larsen & Hansknecht, 2002; Guțu & Heard, 2002; Bamber, 2005; Guțu, 2006) have demonstrated an unusually high density and diversity of tanaidaceans in Australian waters, including a large number of species new to science.

The present studies have been based on two extensive collections. The first was made in the 1970s–1980s on the Bass Strait shelf and western slope, Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and Corner Inlet at depths ranged from 16 to 207 m; this material is housed in the collections of Museum Victoria, Melbourne. The second collection was taken during the Thirteenth International Marine Biological Workshop around Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia, in February 2005. Some 26 undescribed species of tanaidacean were discovered in this material. Among these were five species in the family Parapseudidae from three closely related genera, three species of *Pakistanapseudes*, one of *Saltipedis* and one of a new genus new to science; these are all described in the present paper. As further material of *P. australianus* Guțu, 2006 was taken in Moreton Bay, the opportunity is also taken to supplement the original description of that species.

The remaining species from the two collections are being described elsewhere.