



Tanaidacea from Brazil. I. The family Tanaellidae Larsen & Wilson, 2002

KIM LARSEN¹, CATARINA DE L. ARAÚJO-SILVA² & PETRÔNIO ALVES COELHO³

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Oceanografia do Departamento de Oceanografia, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Av. Arquitetura, S/N, 50740-550, Recife, Pernambuco, Brasil.

E-mail: ¹tanaiids@hotmail.com, ²katelas@hotmail.com, ³pacoelho@yahoo.com.br

Abstract

Both male and female of two new species, i.e. *Araphura arvedlundi* n. sp. and *Tanaella kroyeri* n. sp. were collected from the continental slope of the Atlantic coast off northern Brazil and are described. This is the first record of the male of *Araphura*. An updated key is given to genus *Araphura*. *Araphura io* is transferred to the genus *Araphuroides*.

Key words: Brazil, Peracarida, Tanaidacea, Tanaellidae, *Araphura*, *Tanaella*, deep-sea

Introduction

This is the first in a series of systematic papers on the Tanaidacea from the deep Central Atlantic waters off Brazil, based on material collected under the Oil-exploration programs conducted by Petrobras and with a focus on the tanaidomorphan family Tanaellidae Larsen & Wilson, 2002.

While quite a number of taxonomic papers on the Tanaidacea of Brazil, have been published (Krøyer 1842, Mané-Garzón 1949, Lang 1956, Silva-Brum 1971, 1973, 1978, Băcescu 1979, 1986, Masunari & Sieg 1980, Sieg 1983, Băcescu & Absalao 1985, Gutu 1996, 1998, Larsen 1999, Santos 2004, Santos & Pires-Vanin 2006, Santos & Hansknecht 2007), much is still unknown, particularly the deep-sea fauna. The only deep-sea species described or recorded so far belong to the suborders Apseudomorpha and Neotanaidomorpha and are restricted to a few genera (Gardiner 1975, Larsen 1999, Santos 2004, Santos & Hansknecht 2007). The above listed papers combined describe or record a total of 39 species (excluding the new ones described in this paper) but almost all are recorded from shallow water and most (26) are from the suborder Apseudomorpha. This study reports on two new tanaidomorphan species. A list to the tanaidaceans recorded from Brazil is given in table 1.

The family Tanaellidae was erected by Larsen & Wilson (2002) and currently contains four genera, i.e. *Araphura* Bird & Holdich, *Araphuroides* Sieg, *Arthrura* Kudinova-Pasternak, and *Tanaella* Norman & Stebbing. With the exception of *Arthrura* which consists of one poorly defined and inadequately described species, these genera are well established and fairly easy to identify.

The genus *Tanaella*, erected by Norman & Stebbing (1886), has received much attention recently, with several revisions and seven new species described (Guerrero-Kommritz & Błażewicz-Paszkowycz 2004, Larsen & Heard 2004, Bamber 2005, Larsen & Shimomura 2007). There are probably two reasons for this attention; one is that this genus is rather common and can be found in all major oceans from relatively shallow depths (44 m) to the abyssal plain (4800 m). The other reason for this attention is that it is not possible to misidentify this genus (due to the characteristic pincer-like uniramous uropods and heavy shiny cuticle) and it is thus possible to study this genus without getting into the higher level systematics and discussion of 'valid' genera. Altogether 16 species are known of this genus including the one described in this paper.