



A taxonomic revision of *Pseudosida szalayi* Daday, 1898 (Crustacea: Cladocera: Sididae) over its Asian range, with focus on the northernmost populations first recorded from the Amur River basin (Far East of Russia)

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Abstract

Pseudosida szalayi Daday, 1898 is redescribed on the basis on type material from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and other materials from India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, East and South China, and Far East of Russia (Lower Amur River basin). The investigation of intra- and interpopulational morphological variability has allowed coming to the conclusion about the conspecificity of specimens from different regions and occurrence of the only species, *P. szalayi*, in East and South Asia. The male of the species is described in detail for the first time. The first discovered northernmost localities of the species in the Lower Amur River basin are far separated from others and may have a relict status. While probably, only one species of the genus occurs in East and South Asia, the taxonomic status of African pseudosidas known under the names “*P. szalayi*” and “*P. bidentata*” remains uncertain.

Key words: *Pseudosida szalayi*, redescription, type material, male, morphological variability, East and South Asia, Lower Amur River basin, relict status

Introduction

The genus *Pseudosida* with its sole species *P. bidentata* was first described by Herrick (1884) from the southern United States. Due to primitive, schematic manner of this initial investigation of the animals, they were soon confused with the representatives of a close taxon, later described as a separate genus *Sarsilatona* Korovchinsky (Korovchinsky 1985), features of the two groups were mixed and referred to the new taxon “*Pseudosida tridentata*” or “*P. tridentata*” (Herrick 1887, 1895). This misled Richard (1895), who in his first review of Cladocera included the incorrect description and drawings of *P. bidentata*, combining features of two aforementioned genera, and then other researches, did not realize about the specific characters of genus *Pseudosida*. In particular, this motivated Daday (1904, 1905) to change the name *Pseudosida* to *Parasida* and include in the latter taxon the forms with long antennules, bearing aesthetascs on the lateral side of their base in females and four setae on lower three-segmented antennal branch, and leave in the former genus only the North American forms with aesthetascs on the end of antennule’s base near sensory seta and five setae on the lower antennal branch. The following revisions and reviews (Birge 1910; Thomas 1961; Korovchinsky 1985) improved the situation and helped to outline the genus *Pseudosida* in its modern meaning.

P. szalayi was described by Daday (1898) from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) first as the member of genus *Pseudosida*; then it was incorporated in the genus *Parasida* together with two South American species, *P. ramosa* Daday and *P. variabilis* Daday (Daday 1904, 1905). At the time of its initial description, *P. szalayi* appeared to be known in more details than previous members of the genus. Somewhat later, this species was even more accurately described from South-East Asia by Stingelin (1905) and this description of the species remained to be most elaborated until recently. The following records of *Pseudosida* from Asia were few and concerned *P. szalayi* (together with *P. bidentata*) only once (see Brehm 1953) while all others referred exclusively to *P. bidentata* (Brehm 1933; Rylov 1933; Manuilova 1964; Mamaril & Fernando 1978; Chiang &