



***Saltipedis (Spinopsaltipedis) puertoricensis*, a new subgenus and species of apseudomorphan (Crustacea: Tanaidacea: Parapseudidae) from coastal waters off Culebra Island, Puerto Rico, with keys and taxonomic observations**

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Abstract

Saltipedis (Spinopsaltipedis) puertoricensis, n. subgen, **n. sp.**, is described from eastern Puerto Rico off Culebra Island at a depth of 28 m. The new species is the fourth representative of the genus *Saltipedis* Guțu to be described from the western Atlantic. The new subgenus is distinguished from the currently recognized members of the subgenus *Saltipedis* Guțu by the presence of strongly developed accessory setae on the mandible between the base of the palp and the molar process. A combination of other characters that further distinguish *S. puertoricensis* from its congeners includes: (1) rostrum having an acute tip and with lateral margins convex; (2) absence of epistomal spine; (3) setation patterns on the first pereopod, inner margin of uropodal basal article, and the pleotelson; and (4) male chela having a distinct tooth on both the fixed and movable fingers. Pending further systematic study, *Longipedis* Larsen and Shimomura is resurrected to full generic status. Keys for the separation of the females and known males of *Saltipedis* are presented. Some of the taxonomic problems defining the genus *Saltipedis* and related genera are briefly discussed.

Key words: Tanaidacea, Parapseudidae, *Saltipedis*, new species, new subgenus, Caribbean, Puerto Rico

Introduction

During an examination of benthic samples collected off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, specimens of an undescribed apseudomorphan tanaidacean referable to the genus *Saltipedis* Guțu, 1995 were recovered. The genus *Saltipedis* Guțu, 1995 (Tribe Parapseudini Guțu, 1981) was established to receive the Brazilian species, *Apseudes paulensis* Brum, 1971 as its type. Since then 10 additional nominal species, eight from the western Pacific and Indian Oceans and two from the western Atlantic were added to the genus (see Table 1). Guțu (2006) removed *Saltipedis muelleri* Guțu, 1998 to become the type of the monotypic genus *Brachylicoa* Guțu, 2006. More recently Guțu (2008) synonymized the monotypic genus *Longipedis* Larsen and Shimomura, 2006 with *Saltipedis*. In the same publication, based largely on the presence of an acute or subacute, distolateral process on the basis and palp article 1 of the maxilliped, he transferred *Saltipedis forex* Bamber, 2005; *S. incognita* Bamber, 2005; and *S. nugoris* Blazewicz-Paszkowycz and Bamber, 2007 to the new genus *Magniaculeus* Guțu, 2008. Based on these changes *Saltipedis* presently contains seven nominal species: *S. achondroplasia* Bamber, Bird, and Angsupanich, 2003; *S. bacescui* Guțu, 1998; *S. navassensis* Hansknecht, Heard, and Martin, 2001; *S. fragilis* Larsen and Shimomura, 2006; *S. paulensis* (Brum, 1971); *S. robustispinosus* Guțu, 1996; and *S. tetracanthus* Guțu and Angsupanich, 2004 (see Table 1).

The description of this new species and comments on the taxonomy of the genus *Saltipedis* are the subject of this paper. Unless otherwise indicated, the terminology used in this report, follows that of Larsen (2003).