



***Apseudes talpa* revisited (Crustacea; Tanaidacea). The impact on apseudidaen systematics**

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Abstract

The species *Apseudes talpa* is redescribed and its impact on the systematics of Apseudidae is discussed. The finding of multiple conflicting characters with the generic diagnosis, as well as the novel character of a denticulate ridge on the mandibular body, suggest that a redefinition of the genus *Apseudes* is necessary. The genus *Androgynella* is here demoted to a junior synonym of *Apseudes*.

Key words: Crustacea, Tanaidacea, Apseudomorpha, Apseudidae, *Apseudes talpa*

Introduction

During collection trips along the portuguese coast from Cines to Viana do Castelo, a number of tanaids were found which conformed to the general morphology of *Apseudes talpa* (Montagu, 1808), a species commonly reported from the area. Subsequent dissections, however, revealed a surprisingly obvious- and previously unrecorded character in form of a denticulate ridge along the mandibular body from the palp insertion to the molar insertion. Further analysis displayed several other differences with the most recent redescription of *A. talpa* (Guțu 2006) as well as characters in conflict with the most recent apseudomorphan systematics of the same author. This finding lead us initially to believe we were dealing with a new genus. Observant reviewers of a previous manuscript, however, required comparison with type specimens and this was a well-founded concern. Subsequent analysis of type specimens from the Museum of Natural History, UK (collected in Devon) and other British specimens (Scilly Islands) showed that the Portuguese specimens were indeed conspecific with *A. talpa* which is redescribed below. However, since *A. talpa* is the type species of the genus *Apseudes* (which is also the type genus of Apseudidae), the impact of this redescription has serious ramifications for the family systematics. Thus the new characters require a redefinition of the genus *Apseudes* and maybe even of the family Apseudidae and a rearrangement of the current systematics of same.

We have listed the sequence of the COI gene in Genbank, from the Portuguese specimen, because we find it important for future genetic research, that a particular genetic sequence recorded for a given organism, can be attributed to a specific description. We do this in order to avoid problems of sequences that are taken from what later might turn out to be misidentified specimens (Larsen and Froufe, research in progress).

Material and methods

The type material of *Cancer Gammarus Talpa* Montagu, 1808, from Devon, England, is deposited in the NHMUK, London. Additional UK material was collected by Roger Bamber, from St Agnes, Isles of Scilly (Bamber, in press). The Portuguese material is deposited in Museum Municipal do Funchal (História Natural) and was collected by the authors and party in subtidal rocky shore habitat from Viana do Castelo, Mindelo, Moledo, Eurícia, and Cines