



Article

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Tanaidacea (Tanaidacea: Crustacea) from Brazil. IV. A new genus and two new species from the family Leptocheliidae

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Abstract

This study is based on the material collected from REVIZEE Program and under the Petrobrás oil-exploration programs. These collections revealed a number of representatives from the family Leptocheliidae in its broadest sense, with descriptions of one new genus, *Makraleptochelia* n. gen., and two new species, *M. potiguara* n. sp. and *Intermedichelia jesseri* n. sp. The new genus appears to be closely related to *Konarus-Parakonarus-Pseudoleptochelia* complex of species and differs mainly in the extremely elongated habitus of the male. *Intermedichelia jesseri* is only the second recorded species of this genus and is separated from the other species by having two distal simple setae on the lateral projections of pereonite 3, two distal simple setae on the maxilliped basis, one ventrodiscal spiniform seta on the merus-carpus-propodus of pereopod 3, and pereopods 4 and 5 propodus with one dorsodistal simple seta marginally longer than dactylus and unguis combined. *Intermedichelia* is here included in the family Leptocheliidae.

Key words: Crustaceans, Tanaidaceans, REVIZEE Program, Leptocheliidae, *Makraleptochelia*, *Intermedichelia*, north-eastern coast of Brazil

Introduction

This is the fourth study on tanaidacean systematics from Brazil and the second of a series of papers from the northeastern coast of Brazil based on material collected from the REVIZEE Program and also under the Petrobrás oil-exploration programs. For an overview of the earlier literature of the Petrobrás oil-exploration programs and for details on REVIZEE Program see Larsen *et al.* (2009) and Araújo-Silva and Larsen (in press), respectively.

The family Leptocheliidae Lang, 1973 is well represented in Brazilian waters (Krøyer 1842; Dana 1849; Silva-Brum 1973; Masunari 1983; Guțu 1996, 1998), including three of the earliest-described species of the family collected, *Leptochelia dubia* (Krøyer 1842), *L. brasiliensis* (Dana 1849), *L. forresti* (Stebbing 1896), and the more recent *Intermedichelia gracilis* Guțu, 1996 which is mainly distinguished by the expanded projections on the medial margins of pereonite 3.

The species described in this paper are all ‘leptochelids’, although the family Leptocheliidae is rather poorly defined (Bird & Larsen 2009) and currently undergoing revision (Bird pers. comm.) the family designation chosen here is thus in its broadest sense (Lang 1973). An example is the genus *Intermedichelia* Guțu, 1996, considered family *incertae sedis* by Bird and Larsen (2009) mainly owing to the character of the modified propodal dorsodistal seta of pereopods 4–5 (Bird & Larsen 2009:148[94]); previously, Larsen and Wilson (2002) included this genus in the subfamily Leptocheliinae Lang, 1973. The present study describes a new species with expanded diagnostic characters for *Intermedichelia* and could potentially resolve its systematic position. The genus is considered endemic for Brazilian waters; *I. gracilis* was collected in Rio de Janeiro (type-locality) and recently Araújo-Silva and Larsen (in press) registered the first occurrence for the northeastern coast of Brazil.