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A new species of *Fageapseudes* (Crustacea: Peracarida: Tanaidacea) from California, with comments on the systematics of the family Apseudidae

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Abstract

Examination of material housed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History revealed a new species of *Fageapseudes* from 4100 m depth off California, the first record of the genus in the eastern North Pacific. *Fageapseudes pluma* n. sp. is very similar to the Japanese species *Fageapseudes brachyomos* Bamber, but can be distinguished by differences in setation and by having fewer articles in the antennal flagellum and uropodal exopodite. It is unique for the genus and subfamily in having the inner caudo-distal seta of the maxillipedal endite “feather-like” instead of “leaf-like” or simply setulose. Problems with the current classification of the Apseudidae are briefly discussed, and new diagnoses are established for the subfamily Leviapseudinae and the genus *Fageapseudes*.

Key words: Apseudidae, Leviapseudinae, new species, *Fageapseudes pluma*, California

Introduction

Examination of specimens from the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (LACM) labeled as *Carpoapseudes* sp. revealed that they are a new species of *Fageapseudes*. The species was taken at 4100 m depth off California. It is very similar to the Japanese species, *Fageapseudes brachyomos* Bamber, 2007, from the Kurile-Kamchatka Trench at 5473–5762 m depth. Three other species of *Fageapseudes* are known, the type species *F. retusifrons* (Richardson, 1912) from the Gulf of Cadiz and the western Mediterranean (220–740 m), *F. suprema* (Józwiak and Błażewicz-Paszkowycz, 2007) from Drake Passage (southern tip of South America) at 3804 m, and another from the western North Pacific, *F. bicornis* (Kudinova-Pasternak, 1973) from the Sea of Okhotsk at ca 3300 m.

The two major (i.e. most species-rich) apseudid subfamilies, Apseudinae and Leviapseudinae, are currently distinguished by the nature of the dactylus of the fourth pereopod and the inner caudo-distal seta of the maxillipedal endite. The dactylus of the Leviapseudinae is often reduced and the caudo-distal seta of the maxillipedal endite is “leaf-shaped”, while in the Apseudinae the dactylus is not reduced and the caudo-distal seta is simple. The presence of a “leaf-shaped” seta in *Fageapseudes brachyomos* caused Bamber (2007) to transfer the genus from the Apseudinae to the Leviapseudinae. It is shown here, and in other papers (Bamber, 1999; Błażewicz-Paszkowycz and Larsen, 2004), that the seta of the maxillipedal endite is problematic in the classification of apseudids, and a phylogenetic analysis might indicate its homoplasious nature.

Taxonomy

Suborder Apseudomorpha Sieg, 1980

Superfamily Apseudoidea Leach 1814