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Apseudomorph Tanaidacea from the continental shelf of Angola and Namibia with descriptions of three new species

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Abstract

Four apseudomorph tanaidaceans are recorded from benthos of the shelf off Angola and off northern Namibia (South West Africa). Of these, three are new to science, one each in the genera *Hemikalliapseudes*, *Calozodion* and *Apseudopsis*. The genus *Hemikalliapseudes* now contains four species, all described from West Africa (Angola and Mauritania). The new species *Hemikalliapseudes sebastiani* sp. nov. is separated from other species of this genus by features of several appendages, and the shape of the cephalothorax, pereonites and telson. The genus *Calozodion* is mainly distributed in the Atlantic and also in the Indian Ocean. *Calozodion dominiki* sp. nov. is the tenth representative of the genus and is readily distinguished from all others in that the cheliped propodus of the male has only small processes proximo-ventrally. The new species was widely distributed in the investigation area. *Apseudopsis cuanzanus* sp. nov. is a new member of this species-rich and widely-distributed genus. It differs from the other species of this genus by a combination of several morphological features, including the absence of a dorsodistal spine on the pereopod 1 merus, the lack of anterolateral spines on the pereonites, the shape of rostrum and by the absence of plumose setae on pereopod six basis.

Key words: Apseudidae, Metapseudidae, Kalliapseudidae, macrozoobenthos, biogeography, Benguela Current, West Africa

Introduction

Tanaidaceans are small crustaceans with an ecological importance when reaching locally high abundances (Esquete *et al.*, 2012a, Gutu, 2006). Despite the very long length of the West African coast-line only a few taxonomic studies are available for this region. Additionally, species show varying adaptations to water depth, and therefore the tanaidacean fauna of deep water differs from that of shallow/shelf areas. Data from the deep-water fauna of South West Africa are available from Lang (1955, 1968), Bamber (2000), Guerrero-Kommritz *et al.* (2002), Guerrero-Kommritz & Heard (2003), Guerrero-Kommritz (2003, 2005) and Guerrero-Kommritz & Blazewicz-Paszkowycz (2004). Much less is known from shelf areas. Lang (1956) and Bamber (2003) each list single species off northern Angola and the Congo River. Further information is available mainly for South Africa from older studies (Barnard, 1914, 1920, 1940, Brown, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1958). The recorded apseudomorph tanaidacean fauna of the shelf of South West Africa contains two *Hemikalliapseudes* species (Kalliapseudidae), *Apseudomorpha avicularia* (Barnard, 1914) and *Julmarichardia deltoides* (Barnard, 1914) (Metapseudidae), *Apseudes agulhensis* Barnard, 1920 (Apseudidae), *Pagurapseudes dentatus* (Brown, 1956a) (Pagurapseudidae), *Halmyrapseudes cooperi* (Brown, 1954), *Halmyrapseudes digitalis* (Brown, 1956) and *Parapseudes spongicola* Brown, 1958 (Parapseudidae).

The description of three new species collected from shallow waters (<200 m) from two expeditions to the South West Atlantic is the subject of the present paper. The study therefore provides basic data on this poorly-known crustacean group and contributes to the knowledge about species richness and species distribution in these shelf areas.