

Shallow water tanaidaceans (Crustacea: Peracarida: Tanaidacea) from New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands

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Abstract

The Pacific collections by the MUSORSTOM campaigns of the Paris Museum over the last twenty years include a total of four species of Tanaidacea from shallow waters of the New Caledonia region and all new to science. These species are described herein, one in the family Tanaidae, *Zeuxo* (*Parazeuxo*) *cloacarattus*, and three in the family Leptocheliidae, viz. *Pseudoleptochelia bulbosus*, the second Pacific species recorded for this genus, a species of the *Leptochelia minuta* agg. represented only by males, and a species with unusual cheliped carpus morphology which is placed in a new genus as *Konarus cheiris*.

Keywords: New Caledonia, Tanaidacea, tanaids, *Konarus*, *Leptochelia*, *Pseudoleptochelia*, *Zeuxo*

Introduction

The intensive sampling by cruises from the MUSORSTOM campaigns of the Paris Museum over the last twenty years, largely from New Caledonia and its surroundings (see Richer de Forges 1990; Crosnier *et al.* 1997), has generated, *inter alia*, a collection of western Pacific tanaidacean material. This material has been kindly made available to me for analysis. The tanaidacean fauna of the region of the Melanesian Island systems is largely understudied.

The present paper deals with some shallow water (≤ 20 m) material collected by diving in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. Four species of tanaidacean were collected, all new to science, one in the family Tanaidae and three, including one new genus, in the family Leptocheliidae.

Type material has been lodged in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN) and The Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

Morphological terminology is as in Bamber and Shearer (2005). The higher taxonomy of the Tanaidomorpha is based on Sieg (1980) for the Tanaoidea and Guțu and Sieg (1999) for the Paratanaoidea.