

# Description of a New Mangrove Root Dwelling Species of *Teleotanaeis* (Crustacea: Peracarida: Tanaidacea) from India, with a Key to Teleotanaidae

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Tanaidaceans collected from mangrove pneumatophores on the west coast of India included females and mancae of a new species of the rare and plesiomorphic family Teleotanaidae, described herein as *Teleotanaeis indiaensis* sp. nov. A key to the species of *Teleotanaeis* Lang, 1956 is given. The new species can be distinguished from its two congeners by the following combination of characters: cephalothorax shorter than pereonites 1–3 combined; antennule without pigmentation, distal article incompletely fused with article 4 and with distal and subdistal aesthetascs; fixed finger of cheliped with two ventral, one ventro-subdistal, and four inner setae; uropodal endopod biarticulate.

**Key Words:** Tanaidacea, Tanaidomorpha, Teleotanaidae, *Teleotanaeis*, mangrove roots, Goa, India.

## Introduction

In this paper we describe a new tanaidacean species of the suborder Tanaidomorpha from the Indian subcontinent. With a coastline of 7,517 km, records from India of Tanaidacea, or any other smaller marine invertebrates, are remarkably scarce. Only a few tanaidaceans have been recorded from India (Chilton 1924, 1926; Barnard 1935; Balasubrahmanyam 1962; Balasubrahmanian *et al.* 1979), or from Sri Lanka (Stebbing 1905; Băcescu 1981; Bamber *et al.* 1996). With our current knowledge of tanaidacean diversity, occurrence, and distribution elsewhere (Larsen 2005; Tuya *et al.* 2010), these few records can only be considered a result of low sampling (or identification) effort.

The family Teleotanaidae is a recent construct (Bird and Larsen 2009) and currently consists of only one genus with three species included the one described herein. The family is considered to possess the most plesiomorphic character states within the superfamily Paratanaoidea (Bird and Larsen 2009). It displays plesiomorphic features in the cheliped setation and pigmentation (as in the family Tanaidae) but at the same time shares several features with the family Leptocheliidae in armament of the maxillipedal endite, as well as sharing apomorphic states with Paratanaidae in the pleonite lateral setation and uropods.

## Materials and Methods

All specimens were collected by G. Sahoo from the outer surfaces of pneumatophores [aerial roots] of the Grey Man-

grove, *Avicennia officinalis* Linne scraping with a nylon brush. They were preserved in 90% ethanol.

The type material is deposited in the Museum Municipal do Funchal (História Natural; MMF), Madeira, Portugal. Body length was measured from the tip of the cephalothorax to the apex of the pleotelson. The terminology in the descriptions is based on Larsen (2003), although the minute terminal article of the antennule is here termed 'terminal cap-like article' (see Larsen *et al.* 2013). Adjectives such as 'long' and 'short' are used as relative qualifiers with respect of the appendage being described.

Order **Tanaidacea** Dana, 1849

Suborder **Tanaidomorpha** Sieg, 1980

Superfamily **Paratanaoidea** Lang, 1949

Family **Teleotanaidae** Bamber, 2008

**Remarks.** The family was erected in Bird and Larsen (2009), but according to the code of nomenclature, authority has to be given to Bamber (2008) who first used a family level name (in this case subfamily).

Genus *Teleotanaeis* Lang, 1956

**Revised diagnosis.** Female. With mottled dorsal pigmentation. Eye lobes and pigmented eyes present. First four pleonites each bearing pair of articulated, plumose midlateral setae, last pleonite bearing pair of simple midlateral setae. Antenna articles 2 and 3 without dorsodistal spiniform setae, article 3 with proximal, medial, and distal dorsal setae. Maxillule with palp bearing one or two distal setae. Maxillipedal endite not expanded, distally armed with single seta