On the Authorship of the Genus-group Name Curtipleon (Crustacea: Tanaidacea: Metapseudidae)

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The genus-group name Curtipleon Bácsu, 1976 is not available due to Bácsu's failure to fix its type species in the original publication. This genus-group name should be attributed to Sieg (1983)—the work accidentally validated the genus-group name under Article 13 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

Key Words: Tanaids, ICZN, unavailable name, nomen nudum, type species.

Introduction

The tanaidacean genus Curtipleon Bácsu, 1976 consists of five species inhabiting the tropical Indian Ocean and eastern Australia (Stępień and Błażewicz-Paszkowycz 2013). Bácsu (1976b) originally erected this genus-group name for two nominal species, Synapseudes carinatus Makkaveeva, 1971 from the Red Sea (Makkaveeva 1971) and S. carinatoides Bácsu, 1976 from Tanzania (Bácsu 1976a), but did not designate a type species for the genus, as is required for availability under Article 13.3 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereinafter, Code; International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999). Later, Sieg (1983) selected S. carinatoides as the type species for this genus-group name, although type fixation by subsequent designation is only valid for genus-group names proposed before 1931 (Article 60 of the Code). Workers thereafter followed Sieg's nomenclatural treatment of Curtipleon and treated this genus-group taxon as both available (from Bácsu 1976b) and valid (e.g., Larsen 2002; Bamber 2008; Stępień and Błażewicz-Paszkowycz 2013; Heard et al. 2018).

Articles 13.3 and 67.4.1 of the Code state that every new genus-group name established after 1930 must be accompanied by the fixation of a type species in the original publication. Since Bácsu (1976b) diagnosed Curtipleon without "designating" its type species, the crucial question for the availability of this nominal genus is whether its type species was originally "fixed" by some other means provided by Article 68 of the Code. Both Curtipleon and Synapseudes carinatoides—one of the two species originally placed within the genus—were described in 1976 (Bácsu 1976a, b). If the original description of Curtipleon was published before that of S. carinatoides, it would mean that the genus, when proposed, contained only a single species cited by an available name—S. carinatus—and thus Curtipleon Bácsu 1976 would be available with its type species fixed by monotypy (see Articles 67.2.1 and 68.3 of the Code). Evidence suggests, however, that the two descriptions appeared in the opposite order.

The original description of Curtipleon (Bácsu 1976b) was contained in Volume 17 of Travaux du Muséum d’histoire naturelle "Grigore Antipa". Since the exact date of publication of this volume was not specified [personal communication on 11 February 2019 by Dr Ionuț Ștefan Iorgu, the current managing editor of the journal (now as Travaux du Muséum national d’histoire naturelle "Grigore Antipa")], 31 December 1976 is adopted as the publication date of Bácsu (1976b) in accordance with Article 21.3.2 of the Code. In contrast, the date "January 1976" is indicated on the cover of Volume 2, Issue No. 1 of University Science Journal, in which Bácsu's (1976a) original description of S. carinatoides appeared. Under Article 21.3.1 of the Code, therefore, Bácsu (1976a) is deemed to have been published on 31 January 1976. Curtipleon was described after S. carinatoides, and both nominal species that Bácsu referred to this genus were available at the time. Curtipleon Bácsu, 1976 thus failed to meet the conditions of Article 13.3 of the Code and is deemed an unavailable nomen nudum, under the meaning provided in the Glossary of the Code despite having been introduced with an adequate diagnosis of the taxon.

When Sieg (1983) "subsequently" selected S. carinatoides as the type species of Curtipleon, he also cited Bácsu (1976b) for the diagnosis of this genus-group taxon. These two actions (type designation and diagnosis citation) together meet the conditions listed under Articles 13.1.2 and 13.3 of the Code for availability of a genus-group name proposed between 1931 and 1999, and Sieg is now deemed to have fixed S. carinatoides as the type species of Curtipleon by "original" designation under Article 68.2 of the Code. In summary, we conclude that Sieg (1983) accidentally re-introduced Curtipleon under his own authorship, with S.
carinatoides designated as the type species. The assumed etymology of Curtipleon is provided below under the correct authorship of this genus-group name.

**Family Metapseuidae** Lang, 1970

**Genus Curtipleon** Sieg, 1983


*Curtipleon* Sieg, 1983: 137.

**Diagnosis.** See Štepić and Blažewicz-Paszkowycz (2013).

**Type species.** *Synapseudes carinatoides* Băcescu, 1976, fixed by original designation (Sieg 1983).

**Etymology.** The generic name is a compounded noun, and treated as neuter under Article 30.1.2 of the Code. This name was possibly derived from the Latin words, *curtus* (short) and *pleon* [pleon, from the Ancient Greek words *πλεόν* or *πλεόν* (Jaeger 1972); neuter], and refers to the fused and short pleon of *S. carinatus* and *S. carinatoides* (see Băcescu 1976b).

**Included species.** *Curtipleon carinatoides* (Băcescu, 1976); *Curtipleon carinatum* (Makkaveeva, 1971); *Curtipleon chadi Štepić and Blažewicz-Paszkowycz, 2013; *Curtipleon heterochelatum* Larsen, 2002; *Curtipleon loerzae* Bamber, 2008.

**Remarks.** When he proposed this genus, Băcescu (1976b) cited one of the included species with a masculine specific name. However, Sieg (1983) treated *Curtipleon* as a noun of neuter gender and accordingly adopted the spelling *carinatum* for the specific name. Larsen (2002) judged the gender of *Curtipleon* to be neuter, only referring to Băcescu (1976b). Since Sieg (1983), who is the correct author of *Curtipleon*, treated this generic name as neuter, its gender is unquestionably determined as it was established in the original description.

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**References**


