

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

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The genus-group name *Curtipleon* Băcescu, 1976 is not available due to Băcescu'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* Băcescu, 1976 consists of five species inhabiting the tropical Indian Ocean and eastern Australia (Stępień and Błażewicz-Paszkwyc 2013). Băcescu (1976b) originally erected this genus-group name for two nominal species, *Synapseudes carinatus* Makkaveeva, 1971 from the Red Sea (Makkaveeva 1971) and *S. carinatoides* Băcescu, 1976 from Tanzania (Băcescu 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 Băcescu 1976b) and valid (e.g., Larsen 2002; Bamber 2008; Stępień and Błażewicz-Paszkwyc 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 Băcescu (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 (Băcescu 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* Băcescu 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* (Băcescu 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 Băcescu (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 Băcescu's (1976a) original description of *S. carinatoides* appeared. Under Article 21.3.1 of the Code, therefore, Băcescu (1976a) is deemed to have been published on 31 January 1976. *Curtipleon* was described after *S. carinatoides*, and both nominal species that Băcescu referred to this genus were available at the time. *Curtipleon* Băcescu, 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 Băcescu (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 **Metapseudidae** Lang, 1970  
Genus ***Curtipleon*** Sieg, 1983

*Curtipleon* Băcescu, 1976b: 51 (*nomen nudum*, without a type species fixation); Larsen 2002: 146; Guțu 2006: 16; Stępień and Błażewicz-Paszkowycz 2013: 569; Kakui and Naruse 2015: 146; Larsen *et al.* 2015: 297; Anderson 2017: 176; Heard *et al.* 2018: 302.

*Curtipleon* Sieg, 1983: 137.

**Diagnosis.** See Stępień and Błażewicz-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 *πλεων* or *πλεον* (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* Stępień and Błażewicz-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 ending, in the combination *Curtipleon carinatus*. 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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