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**A NEW GENUS AND TWO NEW SPECIES OF METAPSEUDIDS  
FROM THE SOUTHERN WATERS OF CUBA  
(CRUSTACEA: TANAIDACEA: APSEUDOMORPHA)**

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Abstract. From the southern waters of Cuba, it is described the new monotypic genus, *Synapseudoides* (with the species *S. pinosensis* n. sp.), as well as *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp. The new genus (similar to *Vicinisyndes* Guțu, 2007 and *Synapseudes* Miller, 1940) is characterized, among others, by the presence of two free pleonites (the mentioned two genera having one and three, respectively, free pleonites).

Résumé. On décrit, des eaux méridionales de Cuba, le nouveau genre monotypique *Synapseudoides* (avec l'espèce *S. pinosensis* n. sp.) ainsi que l'espèce *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp. Le nouveau genre (similaire à *Vicinisyndes* Guțu, 2007 et *Synapseudes* Miller, 1940) est caractérisé, entre autres, par la présence de deux pléonites libres (les deux genres mentionnés ayant un seul et, respectivement, trois pléonites libres).

Key words: Tanaidacea, Metapseudidae, *Synapseudoides pinosensis* n. g., n. sp., *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp.

The study on a small lot of apseudomorphan tanaidacea, collected by the second author from the shallow waters with coral reefs, close to Isla de la Juventud (South of Cuba), permitted the identification of four species from the North of the Caribbean Sea. It is about two known species (*Paradoxapseudes cubensis* Guțu, 1991 and *Apseudomorpha ortizi* Guțu, 2006) and two new to science, one of them being the representative of a new genus, and the other one belonging to the genus *Pseudoapseudomorpha* Guțu, 1991. Further on, it is presented the diagnosis of the new genus as well as the description of the two new species.

The two new apseudomorphan species added to the following ten ones, recorded in Cuba: *Apseudes espinosus* Moore, 1902 (now classified in the genus *Podictenius* Guțu, 2006, the family Parapseudidae), *Apseudopsis caribbeanus* Guțu, 2006 and *Paradoxapseudes cubensis* Guțu, 1991, of the family Apseudidae, *Apseudes propinquus* Richardson, 1905 (reclassified in the genus *Hoplomachus* Guțu, 2002), *Apseudomorpha ortizi* Guțu, 2006, *Calozodion multispinosum* Guțu, 1984 and *C. wadei* Gardiner, 1973, all four of the family Metapseudidae, *Pagurapseudes guitarti* Guțu & Gomez, 1975 (now the genus *Pagurotanais* Bouvier, 1918), of the family Pagurapseudidae, and *Halmyrapseudes cubanensis* Băcescu & Guțu, 1974 and *Parapseudes latifrons* (Grube, 1864) of the family Parapseudidae. From these, the three species (mentioned by Makkaveeva, 1968) are, in our opinion, uncertain. It is about *A. espinosus*, *A. propinquus* and *Parapseudes latifrons*. In this respects the following arguments plead:

(1) the erroneous synonymisation of the species *Apseudes espinosus* with *Apseudes spinosus* (M. Sars, 1858) and *Apseudes garthi* Menzies, 1953 (although they differ by numerous morphological features, being necessary their reclassification in different genera, *Podictenius* Guțu, 2006 for the first species, as

we already mentioned, and *Paradoxapseudes* Guțu, 1991 for the last one, genera classified in different families);

(2) the possible confusion of *Hoplomachus propinquus* with one species of the genus *Calozodion* Gardiner, 1973, and

(3) the confused statute of some species of the genus *Parapseudes* G. O. Sars, 1882. It is difficult to admitted that the *P. latifrons*, described from the marine waters of Yugoslavia (geographical area very far from the Caribbean Sea), is the same with the species from Cuba.

Family Metapseudidae Lang, 1970  
Subfamily Metapseudinae Lang, 1970  
Genus *Pseudoapseudomorpha* Guțu, 1991

*Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp.  
(Figs 1, 2)

*Material*: 9 specimens (females with eggs and oostegites, males and juveniles) collected near the Isla de la Juventud (Southwest of Cuba) as follows:  
- 2 specimens (1 female with eggs and 1 male), Station 67, Punta Francés (Southwest of Isla de la Juventud) in dead coral rocks, 4 m deep; 18 April, 1984. Leg. Dr. Manuel Ortiz;

- 7 specimens (1 female with eggs, 1 female with oostegites, 2 males and 3 juveniles), Station 88, Archipelago Canarreos (East of Isla de la Juventud), Cayo Matias, in coral reefs, 1 m deep; 23 April 1984. Leg. Dr. Manuel Ortiz.

*Holotype* (female with eggs) from Station 67 preserved in the collections of the „Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, Bucharest, No. 250417;

*Allotype* (male) also from Station 67, in the same collection, No. 250418;

*Paratypes*, 6 specimens (1 female with eggs, 2 males and 3 juveniles) from Station 88, in the same collection, No. 250419.

*Remarks*. A female with oostegites (Station 88) was destroyed by dissection.

*Description of the female with eggs*

*Body* (Fig. 1 A), slightly dorsoventrally flattened, about 4.7 times longer than the width of the first pereonite; standard length approximately 2.2 mm.

*Carapace*, a little narrower than long (measured together with rostrum), with some tubercles on anterior margin. Rostrum acute, with three-four denticles on sides. Ocular lobes well defined with pigmented visual elements. Epistome with a well developed spine, as long as rostrum.

*Pereon* (Fig. 1 A) three times longer than the carapace width. First pereonite, 2.5 times wider than long, rounded laterally. Second pereonite relatively similar to the previous one, but slightly longer. Third pereonite, a little longer than the second one, with one anterolateral small tubercle on each side. Fourth pereonite, longest, broader than long, with one great tuberculiform prominence on each anterolateral margin provided with one circumplumose seta. Fifth pereonite similar to the previous one, but a little smaller. Last pereonite, relatively similar to the previous pereonite, about as long as the first one.

*Pleon* (Fig. 1 A, B) shorter than the last two pereonites, with five free very short and broad pleonites and a small pleotelson, acute terminally. Last three

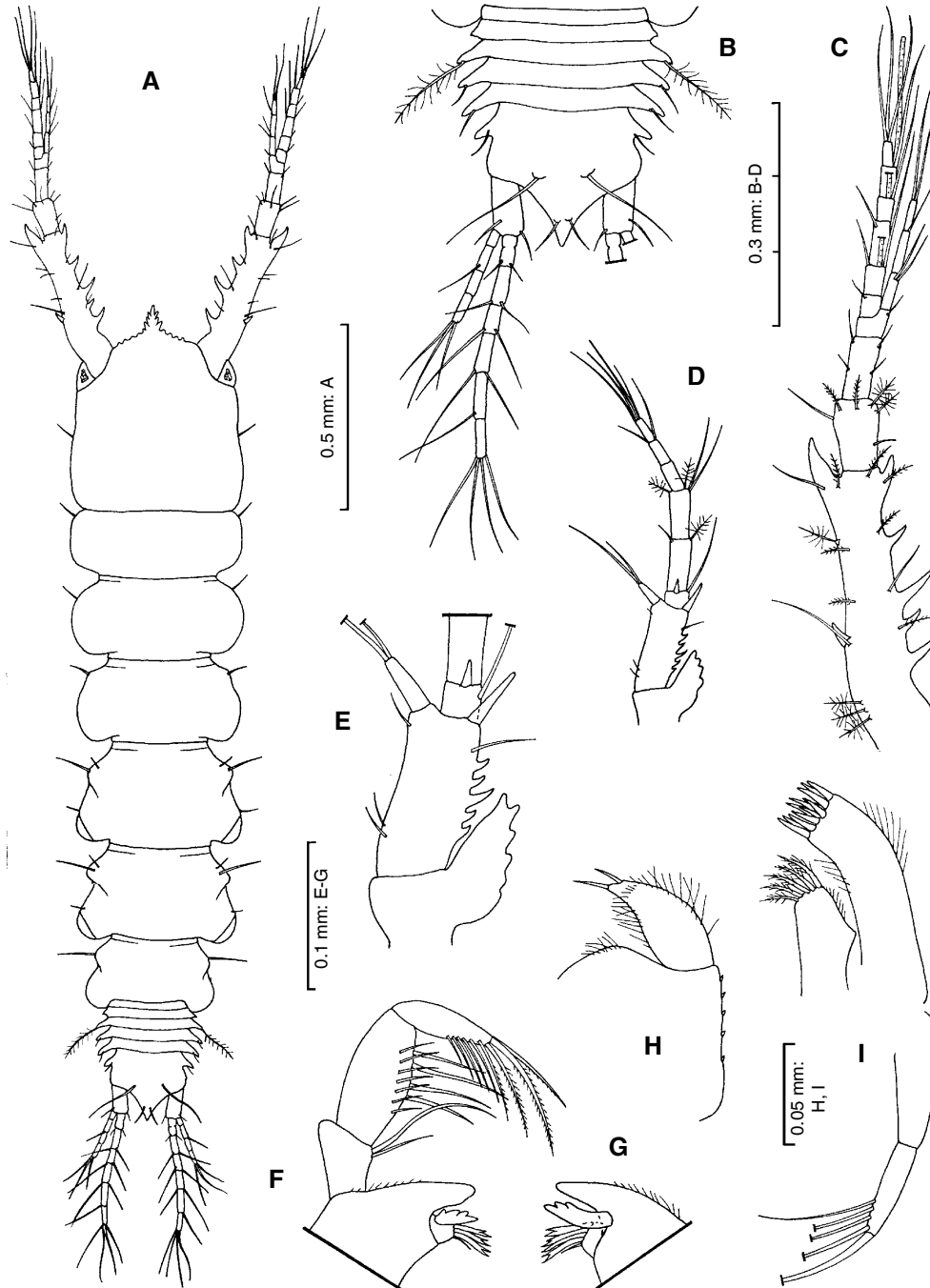


Fig. 1 – *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp., female, paratype: A, body, dorsal; B, pleon and left uropod; C, antennule; D, antenna; E, antenna peduncle, first three articles; F, right mandible, apical part (pars molaris not shown); G, pars incisiva, lacinia mobilis and setiferous lobe of left mandible; H, labium; I, maxillule.

pleonites with a great lateral spiniform prolongation, and the third one with a long circumplumose seta on each side. Pleotelson, as long as pleonites (measured together), acute caudally; proximolaterally with a dentiform prominence and dorsally with two long and two short setae.

*Antennule* (Fig. 1 C) as long as carapace and the first two pereonites, measured together. First peduncular article narrow, about five times longer than its thickness, having some short plumose and simple setae, and five strong spiniform prolongations on the inner margin, the last one situated terminally; outer margin with some simple, plumose and broom setae, one spine and a great distal dentiform expansion. Second article, four times shorter than the first one, with one simple, two plumose and two broom setae, distally. Third peduncular article as long as previous one, but evidently narrower, with two small setae on each sides. Inner flagellum with three long and thin articles (without the common article), each of them having one-two setae. Outer flagellum, shorter than the first peduncular article, with six articles, the last three being shorter than the previous ones, measured together; first five articles with one or two setae (some of them very long), and the second, fourth and fifth ones with one aesthetasc; last article with three long simple setae.

*Antenna* (Fig. 1 D, E) two times shorter than the antennule, both measured without terminal setae. Squama present, small, ended in two long but unequal setae. Peduncle, five-articulated, shorter than the first peduncular article of antennule; first article with a great inner expansion, anteriorly orientated; second article largest, with five denticles on the inner margin, and one strong and very long spine, distally; third article very small, with a long inner seta and one distal spine; fourth article, much shorter and thinner than the second one, with one broom and one simple seta in distal corners; fifth article, as long as the previous one, with two distoinner long simple and other two broom setae, distally. Flagellum, about three times shorter than the peduncle, with three articles, ended in four long simple setae.

*Mandibles* (Fig. 1 F, G) with a strong three-articulated palp; first palp article shortest, with two unequal simple setae; second article, about two times longer than the first one, with eleven setae, four of them longer; last palp article, longer than the first one but shorter than the second article, with nine unequal setae (some of them ciliate in the second half). Pars incisiva apparently unidenticate. Setiferous lobe of right mandible with one very thick, three-denticulated, seta (apparently similar to a lacinia mobilis) and other four, thin, three of them furcate; setiferous lobe of left mandible with one simple and three furcate setae. Lacinia mobilis of left mandible well developed, three-denticulate. Pars molaris without special features.

*Labium* (Fig. 1 H) with five-six spinules on the outer margin. Terminal lobe ovate, narrower distally, with numerous setae and hairs on the outer and inner margin; distally with two spines.

*Maxillule* (Fig. 1 I) with biarticulated palp, ended in five setae. Outer endite with eleven strong spines on the distal margin. Inner endite with five ciliate setae.

*Maxilla*, unstudied.

*Maxilliped* (Fig. 2 A) well developed. Basis, 1.5 times longer than wide, with one very long circumplumose seta in the distal half of the inner margin. First palp article short, with one great circumplumose seta in the inner corner, and a fine subterminal seta in the outer corner. Second palp article very large (but smaller than the basis), with two long circumplumose setae (the median one being very long) and other numerous simple, much smaller, on the inner margin; one very strong spine is present in the distoexternal corner. Third article, longer than the half of the previous

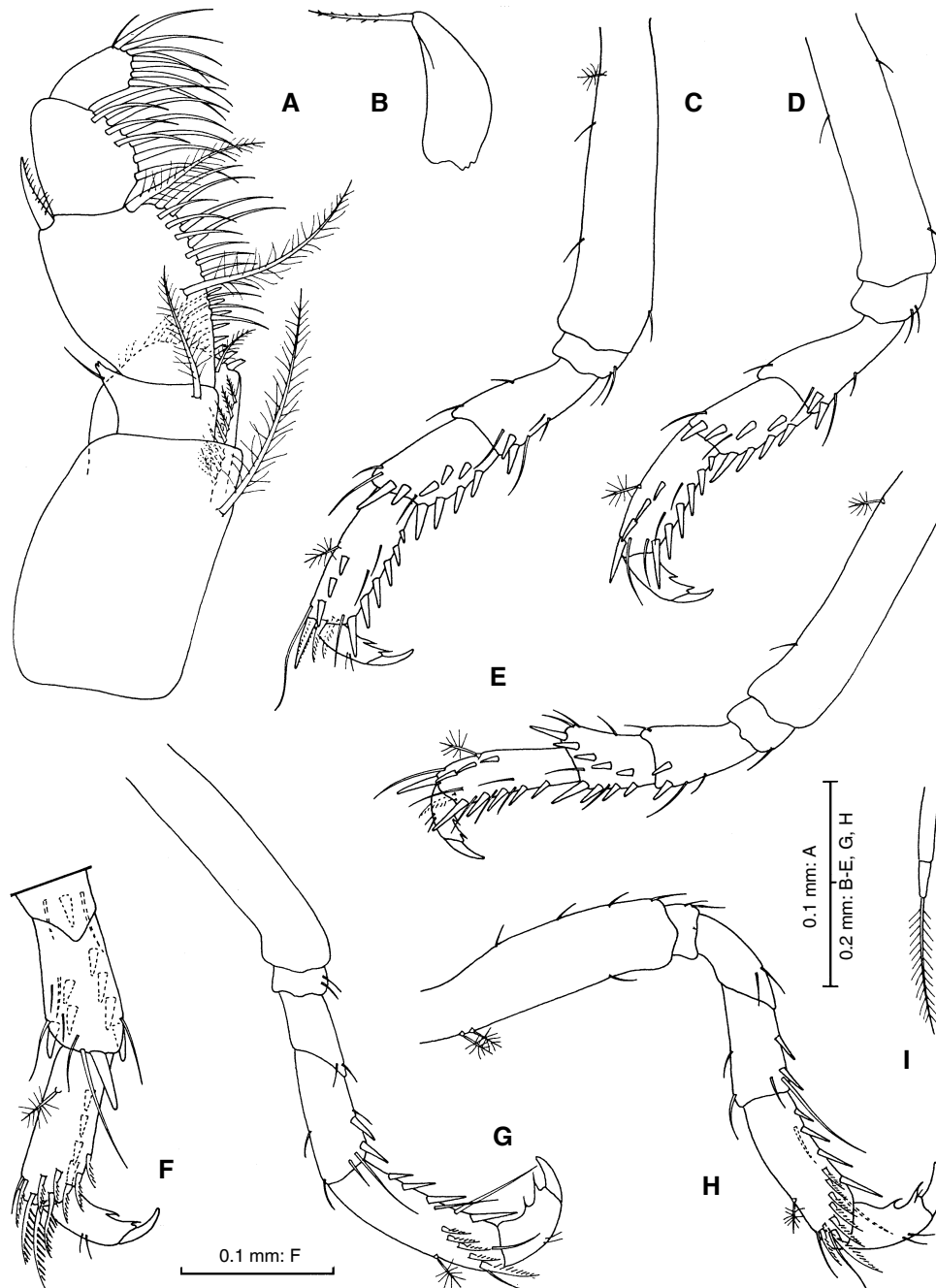


Fig. 2 – *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp., female (A-H) and male, paratypes (I): A, maxilliped; B, epignath; C-E, pereopods II, III and IV, respectively; F, pereopod V merus (last part), carpus, propodus and dactylus; G, H, pereopods VI and VII, respectively; I, pleopod (schematic).

article, with six strong and three fine setae on the inner margin. Fourth palp article, only a little shorter than the third one, with one small and seven great setae. Endite with about eight different and unequal setae on the rostral margin and seven plumose setae on the inner margin.

*Epignath* (Fig. 2 B) cup-shaped, with a long and thin spine.

*Cheliped*, unstudied (lost).

*Pereopod II* (Fig. 2 C) thin and long, without exopodite. Basis long, about 4.5 times longer than its thickness, having one broom and two small simple setae on the tergal margin, and one short distosternal seta. Ischium with two small distosternal setae. Merus, approximately three times shorter than basis, with two distosternal spines and four short sternal setae; tergally with two small setae. Carpus, slightly shorter than merus, with two rows of 4-5 spines on the sternal margin, and two small distotergal setae. Propodus, a little longer than merus or carpus, with six unequal spines and three setae on the sternal margin, and four spines, one broom and one long simple seta on the tergal margin; distally, near the dactylus insertion, two ciliate setae are present. Dactylus strong, with two sternal spiniform denticles; claw short, stout, and curved.

*Pereopods III* (Fig. 2 D) and *IV* (Fig. 2 E) similar to pereopod II but slightly shorter than that.

*Pereopod V* differ from the previous ones by the length of merus (much shorter than the carpus), by the spination and setation of carpus and propodus, the latest having four sternal spines and about nine unequal ciliate setae on the distal end (Fig. 2 F).

*Pereopod VI* (Fig. 2 G) is characterized by the short merus (shorter than carpus), the absence of spines on merus, and the presence of only two spines and some setae on the distal end of carpus. Propodus, much longer than merus or carpus, with four spines and two setae on the sternal margin, and one broom, two simple and five ciliate setae, distotergally. Dactylus similar but stouter than the same of the previous pereopods.

*Pereopod VII* (Fig. 2 H) relatively similar to pereopod VI excepting the greater number of the propodal ciliate setae.

*Pleopods* absent.

*Uropod* (Fig. 1 B) relatively short, biramous. Exopodite, longer than the protopodite, with four articles, ended in three long simple setae. Endopodite, about as long as pleon, with 7-8 articles, the latest one ended in four long setae.

#### *Description of the male*

Males similar to females, excepting the pleopods, present in three pairs on the last pleonites; all pleopods are uniramous and biarticulated, ended in a long plumose seta (Fig. 2 I). As it results from literature (Edgar, 1997; Guțu, 1991, 2006) the differences between the two sexes, in the species of the genus *Pseudoapseudomorpha*, consist in the cheliped configuration (unequal in males, the small cheliped resembling that of the females). Unfortunately, the chelipeds of all studied specimens were lost during collecting, and we cannot present comments on this aspect.

*Etymology.* To the memory of Prof. Dr. Osvaldo Gómez Hernández, from the University of Havana, with which the first author co-operated many years ago and the second one was his student.

*Remarks.* *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp. (the fifth known species of the genus) seems to be the same with that one recorded by Heard et al. (2004) as *Pseudoapseudomorpha* sp. A, from Florida.

The main features by which *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp. differs from other four species of the genus consist in the number of the articles of outer flagellum of antennule (six in the new species and only four or five in *P. madagascariensis* Guțu, 1991, *P. tanzaniana* Guțu, 2006 and *P. wagait* Edgar, 1997) and by the absence of a long circumplumose seta on the sides of the third pleonite (in contrast with *P. ornata* Guțu, 2006, which has a long circumplumose seta on the mentioned pleonite).

#### Subfamily Synapseudinae Guțu, 1972

#### Genus *Synapseudoides* n. g.

*Type-species:* *Synapseudoides pinosensis* n. sp.

*Diagnosis.* Body small, elongated, more or less cylindrical. Visual elements pigmented. Pereon with rounded sides. Pleon short, with two free pleonites and pleotelson. Antennule with very small flagella. Antenna without squama. Mandible and maxillule with three and bi-articulated palp, respectively. Maxilliped with a long and strong outer spine on the first article of palp; second palp article large, with some setae on the distoinner margin and a very long spine on the outer corner. Cheliped without exopodite; males chelipeds unequal, the smaller being similar to the female one. Pereopod II without exopodite. Pereopods II-IV relatively similar, the latest being obviously smaller; merus equal or only slightly longer than the propodus; carpus and propodus with strong sternal spines. Pereopods V-VII with merus much shorter than propodus. Pleopods absent. Uropod biramous, with very short exo- and endopodite.

*Etymology.* From *Synapseudes*, name of similar genus, and the suffix *oides*.  
*Gender,* masculine.

*Composition.* Only the type-species, *Synapseudoides pinosensis* n. sp.

*Geographical distribution.* North of Caribbean Sea (South of Cuba).

*Remarks.* The new genus, *Synapseudoides*, resembles very well *Synapseudes* Miller, 1940 and *Vicinisyndes* Guțu, 2007. The main difference between them consists in the number of the free pleonites: one in the genus described by Guțu (2007), two in *Synapseudoides* n. g. and three in *Synapseudes*. While Miller (1940: 311) and, later, Menzies (1953: 461) mentioned that the pleon is made of three somites (including the pleotelson) in the diagnoses of the genus *Synapseudes*, Lang (1968: 26, 207) established that the pleon has three free pleonites, the last one being very small and hard to observe. A detailed comment on this aspect is presented by Gardiner (1973: 31, 32, 33).

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned aspects, we verified attentively the number of the free pleonites in all specimens we had at our disposal and, although our material was decalcified (because of a very long preservation in formalin, this thing making more difficult our study) we haven't remarked the presence of the third free pleonite and any other folds which might have suggested the presence of several pleonites, as Gardiner observed in *Synapseudes idios* (op. cit.: 33 and fig. 3 A, C-E).

*Synapseudoides pinosensis* n. sp.  
(Figs 3, 4)

*Material*: 4 specimens (1 female with eggs, 2 females with oostegites and 1 male), collected from Archipelago Canarreos (East of Isla de la Juventud), Cayo Matias, in corals reefs, 4 m deep; 18 April 1984. Leg. Dr. Manuel Ortiz.

*Holotype* (female with eggs) preserved in the collections of the „Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, Bucharest, No. 250420;

*Allotype* (male) in the same collection, No. 250421;

*Paratype*, 1 female with oostegites in the same collection, No. 250422.

*Remarks*. A female with oostegites was destroyed by dissection.

*Description of the female with oostegites*

*Body* (Fig. 3 A), more or less cylindrical, only slightly dorsoventrally flattened, 4.7 times longer than the maximum width; standard length, about 1.5 mm.

*Carapace*, approximately as long as broad, with a small midlateral seta. Rostrum short and wide with anterior margin slightly concave. Ocular lobes undefined; visual elements pigmented. Epistomal spine short and thick.

*Pereon* (Fig. 3 A), three times longer than wide, with the first five pereonites approximately equal; last pereonite a little shorter than the other ones. Each pereonite, rounded laterally, having one or two simple setae on the anterolateral margins; anterodorsally with two short and two long simple setae.

*Pleon* (Fig. 3 A, B) short, about as long as the last pereonite, with two free pleonites and a pleotelson. First pleonite, with two simple setae on each side and other four (unequal) dorsally, two times longer than the second one. Pleotelson, acute terminally, a little longer than the length of pleonites, with some lateral and dorsal setae, as in drawing (Fig. 3 B).

*Antennule* (Fig. 3 C) short but robust, slightly longer than the carapace length. First peduncular article, about 2.5 times longer than wide, with four or five tubercles (or rounded denticles) on the inner margin; distoinnerly with two small setae and a dentiform prolongation; midlaterally with two broom setae and outerdistally with two very small and two long but unequal setae. Second article thick (only a little thin than its length), approximately three times shorter than the first one, with two outerdistally long setae; innerdistally with a dentiform expansion and two small setae. Third peduncular article much smaller than the previous one but slightly longer than the following article. Inner flagellum with two articles (without common article), the second one being very small, ended in three unequal setae. Outer flagellum, only a little longer than the inner one, with three articles, the second one having a long aesthetasc and the last article three unequal setae.

*Antenna* (Fig. 3 D) very small, five-articulated; without its terminal long seta a little shorter than the half of the first article of antennule. Squama absent.

*Mandibles* (Fig. 3 E, F) with three-articulated palp; each of the first two articles about two times longer than the third one, the last one ended in two unequal setae. Pars incisiva wide, without conspicuous denticles. Setiferous lobe of right mandible with one robust and three fine setae, forked distally, and of left mandible

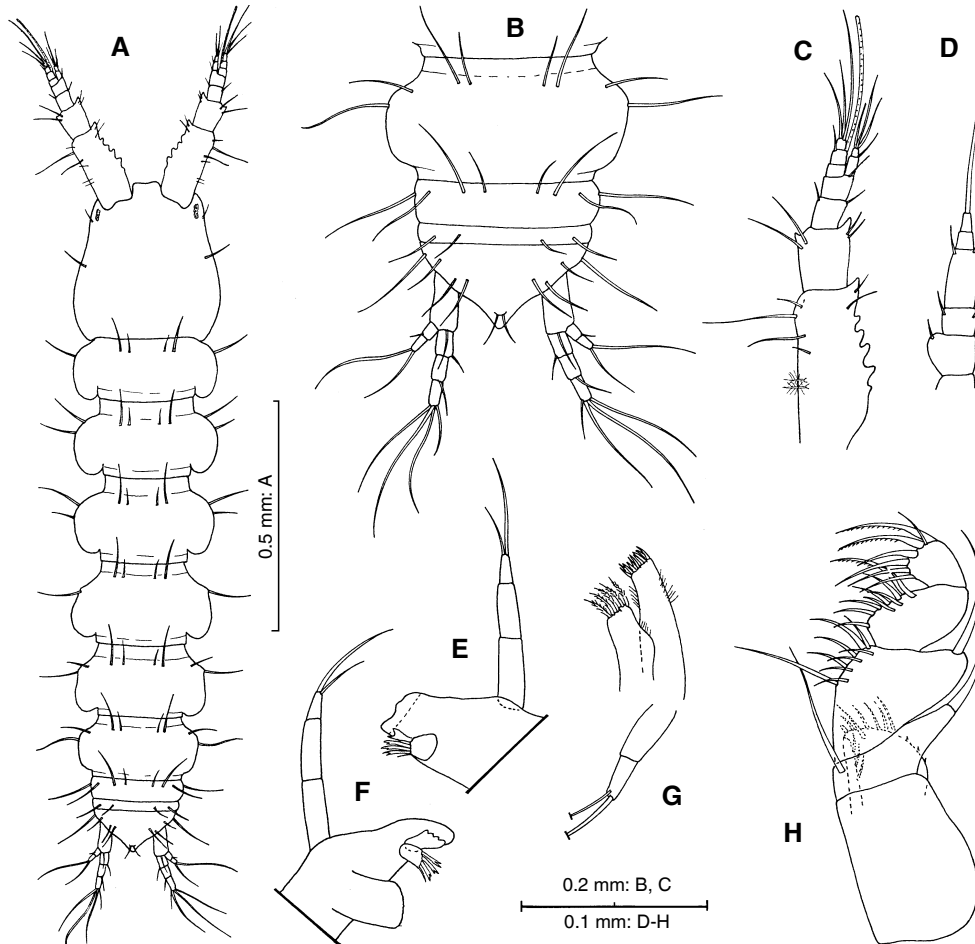


Fig. 3 – *Synapseudoides pinosensis* n. g., n. sp., female, paratype: A, body, dorsal; B, last pereonite, pleon and uropods; C, antennule; D, antenna; E, right mandible, apical part (pars molaris not shown); F, left mandible, distal part; G, maxillule; H, maxilliped.

with five small setae. Lacinia mobilis of left mandible well developed, four-denticulated distally. Pars molaris without special features.

*Maxillule* (Fig. 3 G) with biarticulated palp, ended in two unequal setae. Outer endite with eleven distal spines and the inner one ended in five ciliate setae.

*Maxilla*, unstudied.

*Maxilliped* (Fig. 3 H) with basis approximately 1.5 times longer than broad. First palp article short, with a great and thin outer prolongation, ended in a stout and long spine; a long and strong seta is present in distoinner corner. Second palp article, relatively short but broad (as long as maximum width) with a long distoexternal spiniform seta, approximately as long as last two palp articles; distal half of inner margin with one strong and long seta and other eight, much smaller, disposed in two rows. Third article, smaller than the second one, with eight unequal setae on the

inner margin. Fourth palp article well developed, with one fine and six strong setae, three of them being ciliate. Endite with about seven setae on the rostral margin, and three plumose setae on the inner margin.

*Epignath*, unstudied.

*Cheliped* (Fig. 4 A) relatively slender, without exopodite. Basis broad, rounded sternally, with one very fine spine and one small seta, mid- and distosternally. Merus narrow, with three distosternal setae. Carpus, longer than basis, about 2.8 times longer than its greater width, with two distosternal and one distotergal small setae. Propodus wider than carpus but narrower than basis; fixed finger thick, with one seta near the joint of dactylus and other four on the inner margin; three small setae are present in the distosternal edge; claw stout. Dactylus curved, with three setae on the inner margin; claw bifurcated distally.

*Pereopod II* (Fig. 4 B) strong, without exopodite. Basis robust, thicker distally, about 2.5 times longer than broad, with three small spines on the sternal margin; tergally with two dentiform expansions and one small seta. Ischium very short, with one long sternal seta. Merus, longer than carpus or propodus; one long and three short setae and one spine are present on the sternal margin, and one robust spine and one short seta in the distotergal corner. Carpus, approximately two times shorter than the merus, and, at the same time, shorter than its width, with two sternal spines; distotergally with one long and stout spine, and three setae a little longer than the adjacent spine. Propodus, narrower but longer than the carpus, with three sternal spines and two distosternal setae, one of them ciliate; midtergally with one broom seta, and distotergally with two unequal spines and one long seta. Dactylus curved, thick and relatively short, with one very small midsternally denticle and one distosternal seta; claw robust but short.

*Pereopod III* (Fig. 4 C) relatively similar but a little smaller than the pereopod II, excepting the spinulation of carpus, which has a diagonal row of three spines.

*Pereopod IV* (Fig. 4 D) smaller than pereopod III, but similar to it, excepting the dentiform expansions of basis.

*Pereopod V* (Fig. 4 E) as long as pereopod IV, with two and five spines on merus and carpus, respectively. Propodus, longer than merus or carpus, with two sternal spines and about five distotergal ciliate setae. Dactylus thick.

*Pereopod VI* (Fig. 4 F) a little longer than previous two pereopods. Basis, 3.2 time longer than wide, with two broom and two simple setae, midtergally and sternally, respectively. Merus with two distosternal small setae, and one distotergal spine and one seta. Carpus shorter than merus, with two spines and one long seta, distosternally, and one spine and one long seta, distotergally. Propodus, a little shorter than the merus and carpus measured together, with two sternal spines and two distotergal ciliate setae. Dactylus similar to the same of previous pereopods.

*Pereopod VII* (Fig. 4 G) similar to the pereopod VI, excepting the number of carpus spines (only one, comparatively with three on pereopod VI), and the greater size of dactylus and its claw

*Pleopods*, absent.

*Uropod* (Fig. 1 B) biramous, relatively short. Protopodite great. Exopodite biarticulated, shorter than protopodite, ended in two long but unequal setae. Endopodite with three short articles, ended in four setae, three of them very long.

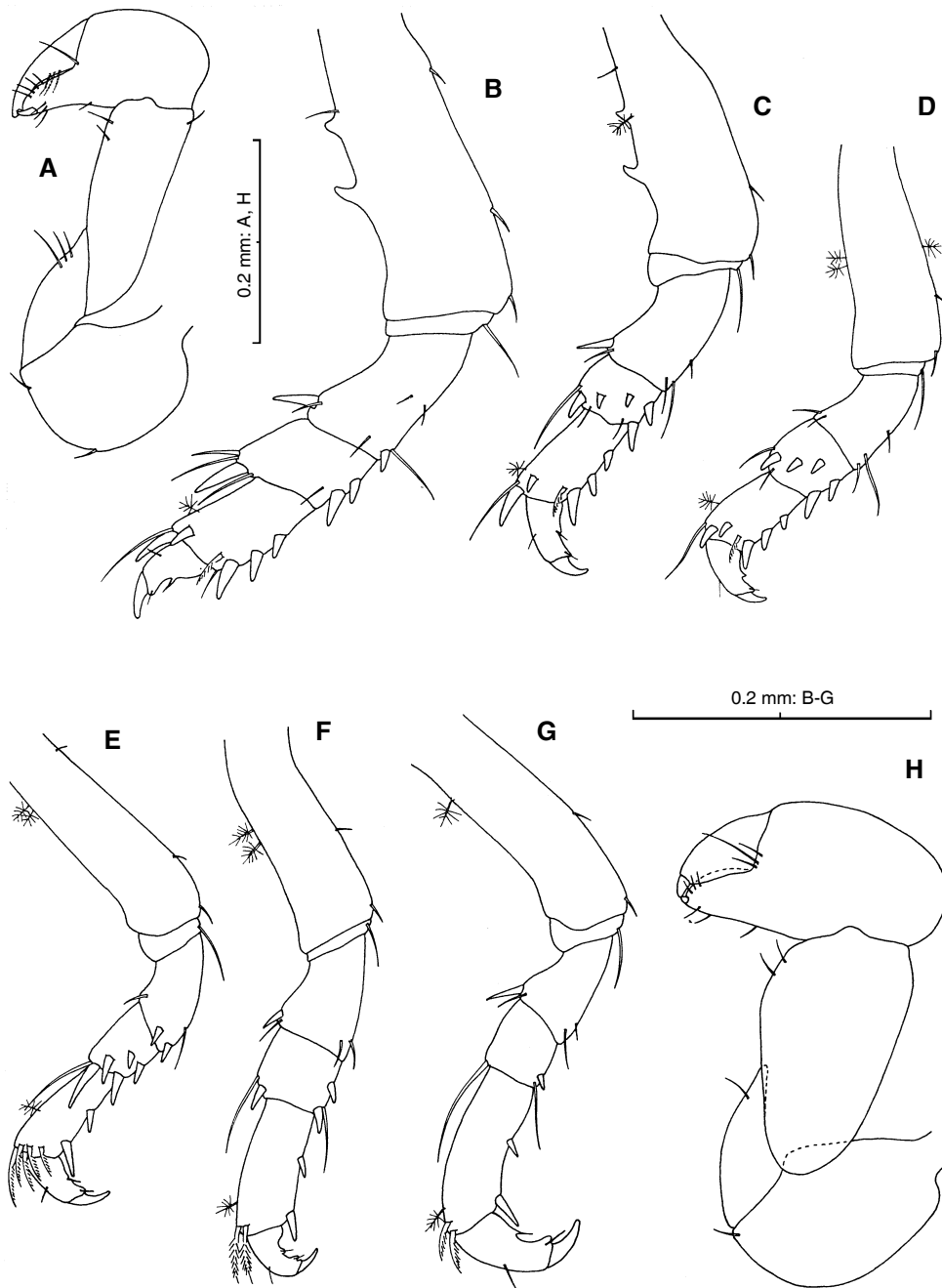


Fig. 4 – *Synapseudoides pinosensis* n. g., n. sp., female, paratype (A-G) and male, allotype (H): A, cheliped; B-G, pereopods II-VII, respectively; H, great cheliped.

*Description of the male*

Male similar to female, excepting the chelipeds which are unequal, one of them being similar to the female (Fig. 4 A) and another (the left, in our case, fig. 4 H) having the carpus much thicker, and the propodus greater than those of females.

*Etymology.* After the collecting place, Isla del Pinos (the old name of the Isla de la Juventud).

*Type-locality.* Isla de la Juventud, Caribbean Sea (South of Cuba).

*Some remarks on other two species recorded together with the above described species.* As we have mentioned in introduction part, beside the three taxa new to science described above, in the studied material there were also identified some specimens of *Paradoxapseudes cubensis* Guțu, 1991 and 14 females (with eggs or oostegites) and juveniles of *Apseudomorpha ortizi* Guțu, 2006. If in *P. cubensis* we did not observe significant differences in comparison with the latest data from literature (Guțu, 2008), as regards the species *A. ortizi*, we remarked some small differences in comparison with the first description (Guțu, 2006). It is about the rostrum configuration – pointed or forked (frequently bifid), sometimes curved ventrally, giving it a rounded aspect, as is illustrated by Guțu (2006: 182, and fig. 314) – and the denticulation on the inner margin of the first peduncle of the antennule. A significant feature on which we want to refer consists in the presence of a long lateral seta at the level of the fifth pleonite.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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UN GEN ȘI DOUĂ SPECII NOI DE METAPSEUDIDE  
DIN APELE SUDICE ALE CUBEI  
(CRUSTACEA: TANAIDACEA: APSEUDOMORPHA)

## REZUMAT

Sunt descrise, din apele sudice ale Cubei, genul monospecific *Synapseudoides* n. g. (cu specia *S. pinosensis* n. sp.), precum și *Pseudoapseudomorpha gomezi* n. sp. Caracteristica principală a noului gen constă în configurația pleonului (format din două pleonite libere și pleotelson), trăsătură morfologică prin care se deosebește de *Synapseudes* Miller, 1940 și *Vicinisyndes* Guțu, 2007 (al căror pleon este format din trei și, respectiv, un singur pleonit liber și pleotelson).

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