

P-1998-8-10, hermaphroditic specimen 8.0 mm, Tai-Shi fishing port, I-Lan County, N.E. Taiwan, commercial trawler, 400-500 m, 10 Aug 1998.

Description.—Carapace with dorsal surface smooth, branchiostegite shallowly foveolate; rostrum with 5 pairs lateral teeth; median carina entire, well marked; submedian carina poorly marked; lateral carina barely reaching posterior of posteriormost rostral tooth, cervical and branchiostegal grooves well marked.

Eye lacking pigment. Maxilliped 3, merus with 2 strong distal teeth on posterior margin. Pereiopod 1, chelipeds subequal; ischium with tiny posterodistal spine; merus with single strong distal spine on anterior and posterior margin; carpus unarmed, shorter than propodal palm; latter with single strong distal tooth on anterior margin, 1.8 times longer than width at level of spine; fingers 0.8 times length of propodal palm, cutting edges contiguous. Pereiopod 2, merus unarmed, fingers slightly longer than propodal palm. Pleopod 1 uniramous, of 2 articles, distal article flattened, widening distally to slender folded area having fingerlike lobe laterodistally, patch of tiny hooks mesiodistally. Pleopod 2, appendix interna short, lobe-like, fused basally with appendix masculina, latter bearing mesial irregular double row of setae, distal finger-like lobe bearing basal row of short setae. Lateral uropodal ramus with unarmed distal suture, single articulate spine distolaterally. Telson medial length 1.7 times basal width, posterior margin evenly convex.

Color.—Entire body including eyes pale yellow, with carapace slightly deeper in color.

Remarks.—Of the three species of *Ambiaxius* described (see Kensley, 1996a), the present material most closely resembles *Ambiaxius japonicus* Kensley, 1996a, from Ose Zaki, Japan. The major differences of the Taiwanese material, compared with *A. japonicus* include: Pereiopod 1 proportionally broader, and with larger spines (propodal palm 2.2 times longer than width at dorsal spine, 1.8 times in *A. foveolatus*); a narrower telson (telson medial length 1.7 times basal width in *A. foveolatus*, 1.5 in *A. japonicus*). Pleopod 1, distal folded area much narrower in *A. foveolatus*; pleopod 2, distal finger-like lobe shorter, broader, and with more setae in *A.*

foveolatus. These differences are admittedly subtle, and with only three specimens between the two species, no sense of variation can be obtained. Nevertheless, given the distance of about 1,600 km between the Japanese and Taiwanese localities, the existence of two separate species is not impossible.

Etymology.—The specific name refers to the pitted branchiostegites of the carapace seen in this species.

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