

A new species of water mite (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Hygrobatidae) from the mantle cavity of the prosobranch gastropod *Potadoma moerchi* (Reeve) (Streptoneura: Thiaridae) in Nigeria

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Abstract

Dockovdia oruensis sp. nov., from the mantle cavity of the prosobranch gastropod *Potadoma moerchi* (Reeve) in Nigeria is described and figured. This is the second water mite species from the Hygrobatidae to be reported as a 'parasite' of a freshwater mollusc and, significantly, the first record of a water mite from a thiarid gastropod.

Key words: Water mites, *Dockovdia oruensis*, new species, molluscs, associations

Introduction

The report and description of the water mite *Dockovdia cookarum* from the mantle cavity of the ampullariid prosobranch gastropod *Lanistes libycus* (Morelet), by Gledhill (2003), added the Hygrobatidae Koch to the Pionidae Thor and Unionicolidae Oudemans as hygrobatoid families having genera and species associated with freshwater molluscs. However, most water mite/mollusc associations occur within the Unionicolidae, in particular the component genus *Unionicola* Haldeman with 29 of its 50 subgenera (sensu Vidrine 1996) associated with 212 molluscan taxa, the majority of which are freshwater bivalves (see Gledhill 1985, Vidrine 1996, Gledhill & Vidrine 2002 and Gledhill 2003).

This paper provides a description and figures of a new *Dockovdia* species, discovered in the mantle cavity of the thiarid prosobranch gastropod *Potadoma moerchi* (Reeve) in Nigeria. This discovery brings the number of known water mite species associated only with gastropod molluscs to seven, such associations being still rare compared with those between unionicolid mites and bivalve molluscs.