



First records of water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from Bhutan, with description of two new species

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Abstract

New records of water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from streams in Bhutan are presented. Two species new to science are described: *Sperchon himalayus* **sp. nov.** and *Torrenticola bhutana* **sp. nov.** Furthermore, the first records from Bhutan are given for *Monatractides tristis* (Lundblad), *Testudacarus tripeltatus* Walter and *Sperchon* cf. *indicus* Kumar *et al.*

Key words: water mites, new species, running waters, Sperchontidae, Torrenticolidae

Introduction

Water mites occur in all biogeographic regions except Antarctica. However, our knowledge of many areas of the world remains scanty. Large portions of Asia are unexplored for water mites. This applies especially to the Himalayas and their associated ranges, the Karakoram, Hindu Kush, Pamir, Tien Shan, Kun Lun and Altai (Lundblad 1929, 1934; Walter 1928; Vitzthum 1942; Imamura 1966, Panesar & Gerecke 1994; Panesar 2004; Kumar *et al.* 2006, 2007; Pesic *et al.* in press). The aim of our article is to give new insight in the fauna of the Himalaya's running waters, and to provide the first data on the previously unstudied area of Bhutan.

A small collection of water mites from Bhutan is present in the collection of the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam (ZMAN). Five species are identified, two of them are new to science. Descriptions of these interesting new species are given in this paper.

Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted on the spot from the living material, preserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke 1991). Holotypes and part of the paratypes are deposited in the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam (ZMAN). The other paratypes will be deposited in the Museum of the Natural History of Podgorica (MNHP).

All measurements are given in m. The following abbreviations are used: Ac-1 = first acetabulum, Cx-1 = first coxae, Cx-4 = coxoglandularia of fourth coxa (= E4 in Wiles 1997), dL = dorsal length, H = height, L = length, %L = relative length, I-L-6 = Leg 1, sixth segment, mL = medial length, P-1 = palp, first segment, Vgl-1 = ventroglandulare, W = width.