



Freshwater Dalyelliidae from the Nearctic (Platyhelminthes, Rhabdocoela): new taxa and records from Ontario, Canada and Michigan and Alabama, USA

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Abstract

Nine taxa of Dalyelliidae Graff, 1908 collected from limnic habitats in Ontario, Canada and Michigan and Alabama, USA are discussed. Two taxa are new to science. *Pseudodalyellia alabamensis* **n. gen. n. sp.** has a unique combination of characters (*Microdalyellia*-type stylet with two proximal heteromorphic axes of different size and two distal axes with long spines flanking a central spiny plate, uterus without uterine sphincter, glandular protrusion in male atrium) and is therefore placed in a new genus. *Gieysztoria choctaw* **n. sp.** is strikingly similar to the Amazonian *G. chiqchi* Damborenea *et al.*, 2005 but differs by having 13 symmetrically arranged, heteromorphic spines of different size on its fenestrated girdle. *Gieysztoria pavimentata* (Beklemischew, 1926) Ruebush & Hayes, 1939 and *Gieysztoria rubra* (Fuhrmann, 1894) Ruebush & Hayes, 1939 discovered in Alabama are the first records for these species in the Nearctic. Remarks on the morphology and distribution of the new North American records of *Gieysztoria dodgei* (Graff, 1911) Ruebush & Hayes, 1939, *Microdalyellia fairchildi* (Graff, 1911) Gieysztor, 1938, *Microdalyellia rossi* (Graff, 1911) Gieysztor, 1938, *Castrella truncata* (Abildgaard, 1789) Hofsten, 1907 and *Castrella pinguis* (Silliman, 1884) Fuhrmann, 1900 are given. For *G. pavimentata*, *M. fairchildi* and *C. truncata*, new localities from the Palearctic are also mentioned.

Key words: Dalyelliidae, taxonomy, Nearctic, microturbellaria, Rhabdocoela