HUGO R. FERNÁNDEZ
Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Argentina (Flathead Lake Biological Station, 311 Bio Station Lane, Polson, Montana, U.S.A. 59860)

Abstract

A male exemplar identified as Omartacarus brevipalpis Cook, collected in Tucuman (Argentina), is reassigned to O. tucumanensis Fernández, as is the nymph described by Cook in 1980 near the type locality of O. tucumanensis. New distributional data are presented for Omartacarus and Meramecia (Submeramecia) diamphida Cook. Meramecia saltensis Fernández is assigned to the subgenus Parameramecia, where it is the second species at the present.

Key words: Hyporheic, Parameramecia, Submeramecia, stygobiotic, wide distributions

Introduction


The family Omartacaridae was proposed by Cook (1980) to accommodate the genera Omartacarus and Maharashtracarus. Unlike most families of water mites, in which species can be found in surficial and hyporheic water, species of Omartacaridae (and other five families), are exclusively interstitial (Di Sabatino et al. 2000). Within the Limnesiidae, the subfamily Neomamersinae currently includes three genera (Meramecia, Neomamersa and Arizonacarus) whose relationships and characteristics were discussed by Smith and Cook (1994). These authors concluded that this South American group is diversified from gondwanic ancestors.