

A new species of the water mite genus *Kawamuracarus* Uchida from Oman (Acari: Hydrachnidia)

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Abstract

A new hyporheic water mite, *Kawamuracarus stocki* n. sp. (Limnesiidae), is described from Oman. It is the first record of a water mite from this country.

Key words: Acari, Hydrachnidia, *Kawamuracarus*, hyporheic species, Oman

Introduction

The genus *Kawamuracarus* Uchida, 1937 is widespread. To date, 14 species are known worldwide: One species from Japan (Uchida 1937), three from India (Cook 1967), one from Sulawesi (Smit 1992), two from Europe (K. Viets 1956), three from Mexico and four species from the United States (Smith & Cook 2000). All species live in interstitial hyporheic habitats.

This paper describes a new *Kawamuracarus* species collected by the late Prof. Dr J.H. Stock from Oman. It closes the gap in the distribution of the genus between Europe and India and is the first water mite species reported from Oman. Few water mites have been described from the Arabic Peninsula. Only Bader (1980) reported one species from Saudi Arabia.

Material and methods

The following abbreviations are used: PI-PV palp segments 1-5; IV-leg-4-6 fourth-sixth segments of fourth leg; ZMAN Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam. All measurements are given in μm ; measurements of leg and palp segments are of the dorsal margins.