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Two new species within the genus *Seira* Lubbock, 1869 from Morocco (Collembola, Entomobryidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Seira* are described: *Seira atlantica* n. sp. and *Seira maroccana* n. sp. They come from two different sites along the Atlas mountains (Morocco); their descriptions are mainly based on the distribution and number of the dorsal macrochaetae and pigmentation. Both new taxa belong to the *domestica* group of species, characterized by a reduced number of dorsal macrochaetae. Their relationships among congeneric species are discussed.

Key words: Collembola, Entomobryidae, new species, chaetotaxy, body pigmentation, collembolan distribution, Morocco

Introduction

The genus *Seira* Lubbock is widely distributed all over the world; it includes about 190 species. The modern systematics of the genus is mostly based on the number and distribution of the dorsal macrochaetae. Many authors have proposed different models describing the chaetotaxy of Entomobryiomorpha: Yosii (1959) was the first to introduce the study of this character in *Seira*, while Szeptycki (1979) gave it a phylogenetic importance within the family Entomobryidae. Since then, several authors have used this approach to describe numerous species within the genus (Gisin & da Gama, 1962; Coates 1968; Dallai 1973; Jacquemart 1974; Christiansen & Bellinger 2000; Barra, 2004a, b).

During an entomological trip in Morocco, we collected samples of soil fauna near Zad Pass in the Middle Atlas and in an oasis along the southern slopes of the High Atlas. In the

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