
VLADIMIR PESIC¹ & HARRY SMIT²

¹Department of Biology, University of Montenegro, Cetinjski put b.b., 81000 Podgorica, Serbia and Montenegro.
E-mail: pesicv@t-com.me

²Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Middenlaan 64, 1018 DH Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
E-mail: smit.h@wolmail.nl

Abstract

New records of water mites of the genera Torrenticola Piersig, 1896, Neoatractides Lundblad, 1941 and Pseudotorrenticola Walter, 1906 (Acari: Hydrachnidia, Torrenticolidae) from streams in Thailand are presented. A detailed description is provided for all species of Torrenticola Piersig, 1896 and Neoatractides Lundblad, 1941. Three species new to science are described: Torrenticola siamis, T. thailandicus and T. wilesi; a first description of the male is given for T. malaisei (Lundblad, 1941). Additionally, first records from Thailand are given for Torrenticola maharashtris Cook, 1967, T. malaisei (Lundblad, 1941), T. turkestanica (Sokolow, 1926), T. tetrapora (Viets, 1935), T. sp., Neoatractides bahtilli (Wiles, 1991) and N. malayensis (Wiles, 1991).

Key words: Acari, new species, new records, running waters, Thailand

Introduction

Water mites of the family Torrenticolidae Piersig, 1902 are presently known from all continents except Antarctica but reach their highest diversity in the tropical climatic zone (Wiles 1997; Di Sabatino et al. 2003). In general, torrenticolid mites colonize fast flowing streams with well oxygenated interstitial habitats where proto- and tritonymphs can survive the quiescent phase of their life cycle (Meyer 1994; Di Sabatino et al. 2003).

At present, two species of the genus Torrenticola Piersig, 1896 and one species of the genus Pseudotorrenticola Walter, 1906 are known from Thailand (Wiles 1997, 1999), i.e. Torrenticola semisuta (Halk, 1930), T. rhampa (Lundblad, 1941) and Pseudotorrenticola sharpae Wiles, 1997.

The aim of our paper is to add new information on the little known torrenticolidan fauna of Thailand. The first part of this paper deals with the species which belongs to the genera Torrenticola Piersig, 1896, Neoatractides Lundblad, 1941 and Pseudotorrenticola Walter, 1906. Twelve species are identified of which three are new to science. The water mites of the genus Monatractides K. Viets, 1926 and the zoogeographical characteristics of the Thailand’s torrenticolids, will be subject of the second part of the paper.

Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted in the field from the living material, preserved in modified Koenike’s fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke 1991). Holotypes and the paratypes are deposited in the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam (ZMAN).