



A new *Friesea* of the *mirabilis*-group from Algeria (Collembola: Neanuridae: Frieseinae)

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As noted in a previous paper (Deharveng & Hamra-Kroua 2004), *Friesea* are well diversified in Eastern Algeria. This fauna includes species from two different taxonomic groups.

First, a complex of forms closely related to *Friesea afurcata* Denis, 1926 includes *Friesea ladeiroi* Gama, 1959 and *Friesea laouina* Deharveng & Hamra-Kroua, 2004 in the studied region. They exhibit various degrees of intra-population eye reduction (from 8+8 to absence of eyes) of unknown taxonomic meaning that are currently under scrutiny (Jordana & Deharveng, unpublished observations).

Second, the *mirabilis* group *sensu* Deharveng & Bedos (1991), distributed worldwide, includes a large number of described and undescribed forms of disputable status, due to the high level of polymorphism which affects most of the taxonomic characters: chaetal arrangement, tenent hair capitation, chaeta morphology, mucro (when reduced), eye number (when reduced). We described here a new species of this group from Algeria.

Abbreviations. Abd—abdominal segment, Ant—antennal segment, Th—thoracic segment, Tita—tibiotalar segment.

Material deposit. LBEA—Laboratoire de Biosystématique et Ecologie des Arthropodes, Faculté des Sciences de la Nature et de la Vie, Université Mentouri, Constantine (Algérie); MNHN—Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris (France); MZNA—Museo de Zoología, University of Navarra, Pamplona (Spain).

Taxonomy

Friesea major sp. nov.

Figs 1–9, Tab. 1

Description. Habitus classical of the genus (Fig. 1). Body length: 1–1.2 mm. Body color: greyish violet to bluish.

Chaeta morphology (Fig. 1). Dorsal clothing of rather strong, long and pointed ordinary chaetae, serrated on posterior tergites (Fig. 2). Chaetae of various length (longest/shortest = 3), with all intermediates between macrochaetae and mesochaetae. Ventral chaetae smooth and acuminate. S-chaetae on tergites slightly shorter (Abd. IV–V) to slightly longer (Th. II–Abd. III) than nearby ordinary chaetae (Fig. 1).

8+8 subequal eyes. Labium (Fig. 3) and mouthparts classical of the genus. Labrum with 5,5,2 chaetae arranged as in the figure of Massoud (1967: 127), with two prelabral chaetae close to the axis (one in a single specimen) (Fig. 4). Seven chaetae on Ant. I, thirteen on Ant. II. Ant. III organ with S2 and S5 rather short and moderately thickened. Ant. IV with apical bulb simple, 6 feebly thickened, short, subequal S-chaetae and a minute ms microchaeta (Fig. 5).

Frequent chaetotaxic asymmetries on tergites and sternites (Figs 1, 6). Th. I, II, III with respectively 4, 10 + 2S + ms, 9 + 2S chaetae. Chaetae a2 often present on Abd. V, sometimes asymmetrically (Fig. 1), rarely absent. Three strong anal spines on strong papillae (Fig. 7).

Leg chaetotaxy as in Fig. 8 and Tab. 1. Chaeta M absent on Tita, which have 4–5 weakly clavate tenent hairs in the distal row. Claw without inner tooth.