



Redescription of *Isotominella geophila* Delamare Deboutteville, 1948 from Algeria (Collembola, Entomobryomorpha, Isotomidae), a second world record for an Ivory Coast species

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Abstract

Isotominella geophila Delamare Deboutteville, 1948, from Massif Edough in Northeast Algeria, has been found for the second time and is redescribed. It is separated from all other genera of Isotomidae by the following combination of characters: absence of eyes and pigment, PAO oval, not subdivided, shorter than width of antennal base, dens partially crenulated, dental chaetotaxy with more than six setae (13+4), posterior central S-setae on thoracic tergite II to abdominal tergite IV in p-row, S-seta on abdominal tergite V not thickened and mucro bidentate. This species exhibits sexual dimorphism.

Key words: Isotominae, new distribution, North Africa, Palaearctic Mediterranean fauna

Introduction

The Edough massif has a Mediterranean climate, humid in the north and wet and cool in the south; in winter the average temperature is 6.5°C and in summer 24.6°C. Total annual rainfall is 900–1400 mm. The soil is a brown earth on steep slopes. The dominant plant species present are (in order of dominance): *Quercus faginea* ssp. *mirbeckii*, with an understory of *Cytisus triflorus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus ulmifolius* and *Rosa canina*. In the humid areas *Ilex aquifolium*, *Laurus nobilis*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Hedera helix* and *Smilax aspera* are dominant.

The first survey of collembolan biodiversity in the Edough Massif in northern Algeria, was carried out between 1999 and 2007 and a rich fauna of Entomobryomorpha was found. The samples collected during this survey were from a *Quercus faginea* ssp. *mirbeckii* (zen oak) forest in the Edough massif (Fig. 1). *Isotominella geophila* Delamare Deboutteville, 1948 was found for the second time only since its first discovery on the Ivory Coast in these samples. It is redescribed here based on the material from North Africa. The genus is monobasic, belongs to *Cryptopygus* group and is related to *Dagamaea* Yosii, 1965.

List of abbreviations. **as:** anterior sensillum. **ms:** microsensillum-a. **p-row:** posterior row of setae on thoracic or abdominal tergites. **PAO:** postantennal organ. **S:** sensilla. **s:** sensillum-a. **Slh:** sublobal hairs.

***Isotominella geophila* Delamare Deboutteville, 1948**
(Figs. 2A–G, 3A–D)

Isotominella geophila Delamare Deboutteville, 1948: 402–404 (Figs. 184–194).