

Two new species of the water mite family Pontarachnidae (Acari: Hydrachnidia), with a discussion of the taxonomic status of *Pontarachna hinumaensis* Imamura

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Abstract

Two new species are described of the predominantly marine water mite family Pontarachnidae, i.e. *Pontarachna africana* n. sp. from South Africa and *Litarachna hongkongensis* n. sp. from Hong Kong, China. *Pontarachna hinumaensis* Imamura, 1958 is synonymized with *P. anellata* Sokolov, 1936. A checklist is provided of all known species of Pontarachnidae, including their geographical distribution.

Key words: Acari, Hydrachnidia, Pontarachnidae, water mites, new species.

Introduction

Water mites of the family Pontarachnidae Koenike are widely distributed in the world, with the exception of South America, Antarctica and the Atlantic coasts of Europe and North America. Most species live in the marine littoral, but a few species are known from freshwater or brackish water habitats. Only two genera have been described, i.e. *Pontarachna* Philippi and *Litarachna* Walter, with 13 (+ one subspecies) and nine known species respectively (see Table 1). Two more *Litarachna* species are reported from Southeast Africa (Wiles pers. communication), three more *Pontarachna* and two more *Litarachna* species from Western Australia (Smit in prep.).

In this paper two new species are described, one *Pontarachna* species from South Africa and one *Litarachna* species from Hong Kong, China.