

## **New records of the water mite genera *Atractides* Koch and *Sperchon* Kramer from the Balkan, with the description of one new species**

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### **Abstract**

Four water mite species of the genera *Atractides* and *Sperchon* (Acari: Hydrachnidia) are reported from Serbia and Crna Gora, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Bulgaria. *Sperchon vesnae* is described as a new species; first description are given of the female of *Atractides longisetus* Pesic, 2002; first records from the Balkan peninsula are given of *Sperchon longissimus* Viets, 1920, and *Atractides cf. lunipes* Lundblad, 1956. The latter is a rare water mite species previously known only from the French Pyrenees.

**Key words:** Acari, water mites, *Sperchon*, *Atractides*, Balkan peninsula

### **Introduction**

Water mites of the genera *Atractides* and *Sperchon* have been found in all biogeographic regions except for Australia and Antarctica (Cook, 1974). The aim of this paper is to contribute elements for a more comprehensive revision of the genera *Atractides* (Gerecke, in press) and *Sperchon* in the western palearctic region.

During a survey of the freshwater fauna of the Balkan Peninsula (Serbia and Crna Gora, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Bulgaria), several species of water mites were collected, including a new species of the genus *Sperchon* Kramer (*Sperchon vesnae* sp. nov.) from Crna Gora and Bulgaria.

### **Material and methods**

Water mites were collected from surface waters by hand netting being sorted on the spot from the living material. Specimens were preserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as