



## A new species of *Moina* Baird, 1950 (Crustacea: Anomopoda) from Socotra Island, Yemen

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### Abstract

We describe a new species, *Moina diksamensis* n. sp., endemic to Socotra Island, Yemen, including details of important limb characters not usually described in the literature. *Moina diksamensis* has a peculiar ecology and is found in close association with freshwater crabs of the genus *Socotra* Cumberlidge & Wranik, 2002. The new species is closely related to *M. mukhamedievi* Mirabdullaev, 1998 from Uzbekistan, another biogeographical link for freshwater crustaceans between this Afro-Arabian island and Asia.

**Key words:** Socotra Island, *Moina diksamensis* new species, taxonomy, Anomopoda

### Introduction

The island of Socotra, situated in the Arabian Sea off the Horn of Africa and politically part of Yemen, is a treasure-trove of biodiversity (Cheung & DeVantier 2006). Although its fauna and flora are impoverished in absolute numbers, this is well compensated by the originality of its composition and the large proportion of endemics, rivaling that of the Galápagos (Sohlman 2004). Until recently, the aquatic fauna of the island, in particular its micro-crustaceans, had remained unstudied, but a renewed interest in the island since the mid-1990s, culminating in a GEF-funded project “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago” and several expeditions, led to a series of new taxa in Copepoda (Mirabdullaev *et al.* 2002; Baribweguire & Dumont 2000), Isopoda (Taiti & Ferrara 2004), Amphipoda (e.g., Holsinger & Ruffo 2002) and Anostraca (Van Damme *et al.* 2004). In the Anomopoda, two endemic species belonging to the family Chydoridae were described in the last decade from Socotra: *Karualona socotrana* Dumont & Silva-Briano, 2000 and the riverine *Nicsmirnovius camerounensis dioscorideus* Van Damme, Chiambeng, Maiphae & Dumont, 2003. Here, we describe a third Socotran endemic, a species of *Moina* Baird, 1850. The animal was collected from freshwater in rockholes, where it co-exists with an undescribed genus of cyclopoid copepod (Fiers *et al.* unpublished) and as yet unidentified ostracods.

The genus *Moina* is widespread, inhabiting mainly temporary pools, saline and brackish waters. Since Goulden's (1968) revision, several new species were described (e.g., Hudec 1985, 1987, 1997; Mirabdullaev 1998; Kotov *et al.* 2005), bringing the total number to just over 20 recognized species. Together with the Australian *Moinodaphnia* Herrick, 1887, these are widely accepted to form the Moinidae, though a few authors (e.g., Olesen 1998; Flössner 2001) regard the two genera, *Moina* and *Moinodaphnia*, as members of the Moininae, a subfamily of the Daphniidae.

Detailed drawings of moinid limbs by Alonso (1996) and a recent discussion by Kotov *et al.* (2005) have increased our knowledge of morphological relationships with other anomopods. Relationships within *Moina*