



Check-List of the South-African Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda)

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ABSTRACT

Examination of about 290 samples collected within 25–34.5° S, 18–33° E and consideration of the previous publications revealed about 112 species of Cladocera. Newly recorded species are 18 (including not yet described taxa). Endemics (including not yet described species) are 16, making about 7% of known species. A rather wide representation of species occurring in the Palearctic is remarkable.

Key words: Cladocera, fauna, South Africa, zoogeography

INTRODUCTION

The present list comprises both the species previously recorded by various authors and those found in the examined collection. The collection is in the process of investigations and some species may later be described in better detail.

The cladoceran fauna of South Africa is the least known, in contrast to other parts of Africa which have a long record of investigations. Therefore, it is useful to offer the general outline of knowledge of the cladoceran fauna of South Africa. The very first report on the Cladocera of South Africa was made by Sars (1895, 1916), which remain the most extensive communications until now. These publications were followed by articles by various authors dealing usually with particular species or groups.

Dumont and Pensaert (1983) redescribed from South African material *Scapholeberis kingi* and *Mega-fenestra aurita*. Smirnov (2005) and Smirnov *et al.* (2006) commented on *Pleuroxus*-like chydorids from South Africa. South-African species are indicated in the worldwide reviews of various Cladocera groups (Benzie 2005; Goulden 1968; Korovchinsky 1992, 2004; Kotov & Štifter 2005, 2006; Smirnov 1976, 1992, 1996).

Forró *et al.* (2008) listed 134 species for Afrotropical fauna. South African experts note Cladocera usually within the framework of plankton studies (Hart from 1985 to 2001; Clarke & Rayner 1999). In view of improving general knowledge the reviews of South African Cladocera were composed by Noble and Schaefer (1967a, b) and by Seaman *et al.* (1999), the latter comprising 49 cladoceran taxa. Still, all available sources remained incomplete.

MATERIAL

Chain of events starting from my stay at Dr H. J. Dumont's (Ghent University, Belgium) department led me to a possibility to examine Dr K. Martens's extensive collection of freshwater invertebrates from inland waters of South Africa. From about 600 samples collected by him in the Republic of South Africa and kept at the