



## New records of the water mite genus *Arrenurus* from India, with the description of one new species (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Arrenuridae)

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### Abstract

New records are given of the water mite genus *Arrenurus* from India. One new species is described, i.e. *Arrenurus indicus* Smit & Pesic **n. sp.** The synonymizations of *A. mammifera* Nayar, 1967 with *A. laticodulus* Piersig, 1898 and of *A. incisifrons* Nayar, 1969 with *A. spinosus* Walter, 1929 are confirmed. The first description of the female of *A. kurtvietsi* Lundblad is given. All existing data on *Arrenurus* from India are reported.

**Key words:** Acari, Hydrachnidia, *Arrenurus*, new species, new records, India

### Introduction

The genus *Arrenurus* is the most species-rich water mite genus and has a cosmopolitan distribution. To date, more than 800 species are known. The first records of the genus *Arrenurus* from the Indian subcontinent were made by Daday (1898). Subsequent papers on the genus from India were published by Viets (1926a,b), while Walter (1929) summarized the data from South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand with eight species listed from India. Later on, papers with records of *Arrenurus* species were published by Cook (1967), Lundblad (1969) and Nayar (1969), while Prasad (1974) summarized the data until that time. Tomar & Raychaudhury (1981, 1983) described four additional *Arrenurus* species. A number of the previously described species have been synonymized. In total, 27 species were known from India (Table 1), for five species it is not known whether their origin is India or Sri Lanka. The latter species are not listed in Table 1. K.O. Viets (1987) considered *A. incisicauda* Nayar, 1969 a *species incerta*, and this species is, therefore, also omitted from Table 1. Considering the species richness of *Arrenurus* in South-East Asia, many more species can be expected.

In this paper a number of new findings are reported from India. One species new to science is described, and the taxonomic status of some species is reviewed. A total of 28 *Arrenurus* species are actually known from India.

### Material and methods

The following abbreviations are used: PI-PV palp segments 1-5; IV-leg-4-6 fourth-sixth segments of fourth leg. All measurements are in µm. All type material has been deposited in the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam (ZMAN). Additional material is lodged in the Museum of Natural History of Podgorica, Montenegro (MNHP), or in the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam (ZMAN).