



Water mites of the family Torrenticolidae Piersig, 1902 (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from Thailand, Part I. The genera *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896, *Neoattractides* Lundblad, 1941 and *Pseudotorrenticola* Walter, 1906

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Abstract

New records of water mites of the genera *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896, *Neoattractides* Lundblad, 1941 and *Pseudotorrenticola* Walter, 1906 (Acari: Hydrachnidia, Torrenticolidae) from streams in Thailand are presented. A detailed description is provided for all species of *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896 and *Neoattractides* Lundblad, 1941. Three species new to science are described: *Torrenticola siamis*, *T. thailandicus* and *T. wilesi*; a first description of the male is given for *T. malaisei* (Lundblad, 1941). Additionally, first records from Thailand are given for *Torrenticola maharashtris* Cook, 1967, *T. malaisei* (Lundblad, 1941), *T. turkestanica* (Sokolow, 1926), *T. tetrapora* (Viets, 1935), *T. sp.*, *Neoattractides bahillii* (Wiles, 1991) and *N. malayensis* (Wiles, 1991).

Key words: Acari, new species, new records, running waters, Thailand

Introduction

Water mites of the family Torrenticolidae Piersig, 1902 are presently known from all continents except Antarctica but reach their highest diversity in the tropical climatic zone (Wiles 1997; Di Sabatino et al. 2003). In general, torrenticolid mites colonize fast flowing streams with well oxygenated interstitial habitats where proto- and tritonymphs can survive the quiescent phase of their life cycle (Meyer 1994; Di Sabatino et al. 2003).

At present, two species of the genus *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896 and one species of the genus *Pseudotorrenticola* Walter, 1906 are known from Thailand (Wiles 1997, 1999), i.e. *Torrenticola semisuta* (Halk, 1930), *T. rhampa* (Lundblad, 1941) and *Pseudotorrenticola sharpae* Wiles, 1997.

The aim of our paper is to add new information on the little known torrenticolidan fauna of Thailand. The first part of this paper deals with the species which belongs to the genera *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896, *Neoattractides* Lundblad, 1941 and *Pseudotorrenticola* Walter, 1906. Twelve species are identified of which three are new to science. The water mites of the genus *Monattractides* K. Viets, 1926 and the zoogeographical characteristics of the Thailand's torrenticolids, will be subject of the second part of the paper.

Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted in the field from the living material, preserved in modified Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke 1991). Holotypes and the paratypes are deposited in the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam (ZMAN).