



New species of water mites from the Comoros (Acari: Hydrachnidia)

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Abstract

Three new species are described from the Comoros, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean: *Teratothyasides scutulatus* Smit & Pesic **n. sp.**, *Platymamersopsis comoros* Smit & Pesic **n. sp.** and *Atractides comorosensis* Smit & Pesic **n. sp.** One species is reported new for the fauna of the Comoros, i.e. *Monatractides ventriosa* (K. Viets, 1916).

Key words: Acari, Hydrachnidia, new species, Comoros

Introduction

The Comoros are an archipelago in the Indian Ocean some 300–500 km east of Africa and 300 km north of Madagascar. Mayotte is one of the four major islands of the archipelago. It's a French overseas department of which the main island, Grand Terre, is 374 km² large. Like all islands of the Comoros it's of volcanic origin. Little is known about the water mites of the Comoros. Only K.O. Viets (1981) reported the occurrence of one species, *Hygrobates soari* Viets, 1911.

During an inventory of the freshwater biodiversity of Mayotte, funded by the Direction de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt of Mayotte under the direction of Association Réunionnaise de Développement de l'Aquaculture (ARDA), a number of water mites were collected. This material will be described in this paper.

Material and methods

All material was collected at Mayotte by Nathalie Mary-Sasal (Moorea, French Polynesia) and was fixed in ethanol. The following abbreviations are used: PI-PV for palp segments 1–5, IV-Leg-4–6 for the fourth to sixth segments of fourth leg, Cx-III for the third coxae, Vgl-1 for the ventroglandularia 1. Holotypes have been lodged in the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN), paratypes and all non-type material in the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam (ZMAN).

Range measurements given comprise all specimens mentioned in the material examined. Measurements of paratypes are given in brackets. Lengths of palp and leg segments are dorsal lengths. All measurements are given in µm. The annotation of the material is as follows: male/female/deutonymph. For a detailed description and discussion of the characteristics of the genus *Atractides*, and a detailed methodological introduction, see Gerecke (2003). The following abbreviations are used: Ac-1 = first acetabulum, Cx-1 = first coxae, dL = dorsal length, L = length, %L = relative length, I-Leg-6 = Leg 1, sixth segment (tarsus), IL = lateral length, mL = medial length, P-1 = palp, first segment, S-1 = large proximal ventral seta at I-Leg-5, S-2 = large distal ventral seta at I-Leg-5, Vgl = ventroglandulare, vL = ventral length.