



## The water skater genus *Gerris* Fabricius (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Gerridae) in Vietnam, with the description of a new species

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### Abstract

The water skater genus *Gerris* of Vietnam is reviewed, with a key to species provided. *Gerris* (s.str.) *curvus* sp. n. from southern Vietnam is described. The discovery of this species greatly extends the southernmost distributional range of the genus. Two other species, *Gerris* (s.str.) *latiabdominis* and *Gerris* (*Macrogerris*) *gracilicornis*, are first records for Vietnam.

**Key words:** Gerridae, *Gerris*, new species, first records, Vietnam

### Introduction

The water strider genus *Gerris* Fabricius, with 42 species, occurs mainly in the temperate region of North America, Europe, and Asia (Andersen 1993). Andersen (1993) provided the most comprehensive systematic revision of the genus, in which three subgenera were recognised: *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794, *Macrogerris* Andersen, 1993, and *Gerriselloides* Hungerford & Matsuda, 1958. The *Gerris* fauna of North America, Europe, and eastern Palearctic region is relatively well-studied (see Andersen 1993).

For the Vietnamese fauna, previously only one species, *Gerris nepalensis*, was reported, from northern Vietnam (Andersen 1993). The present paper describes a new *Gerris* species from southern Vietnam and provides first records of *G. latiabdominis* and *G. gracilicornis* for Vietnam, from the northwestern area of the country. Most *Gerris* species occupy temperate regions, and only a few occur in sub-tropical areas (e.g., *Gerris nepalensis*). The discovery of *Gerris* (s.str.) *curvus* sp. n. is surprising, as it is the first *Gerris* species known to inhabit the tropical Asian continent (other tropical *Gerris* species occur in Africa only, see Andersen 1993 for *Gerris swakopensis* species group). This paper also presents a key to the *Gerris* species of Vietnam.

### Material & methods

Material studied consisted of dry-mounted and alcohol-preserved specimens deposited in the following collections:

MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France)
MTMB	Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary)
NHMW	Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria)
JTPC	John T. Polhemus Collection, Englewood, Colorado, USA
ZMHU	Zoological Museum, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam
ZRC	Zoological Reference Collections, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore