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Third contribution to the knowledge of water mites from the Comoros, with the description of two new species (Acari: Hydrachnidia)

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Abstract

New records of water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from the Comoros are presented. Two species new to science, *Torrenticola comorosensis* (Torrenticolidae) and *Sterkspruitia comorosensis* (Hygrobatidae) are described; the latter species is the second known species of the genus *Sterkspruitia* Cook, 2003. First records are given for *Limnochaeres crinita* Koenike, 1898 and *Mamersella thienemanni* K. Viets, 1929. Additional measurements, figures and information on the morphology are given for specimens assigned to the *Monatractides ventriosus*—species complex.

Key words: Acari, Hydrachnidia, new species, new records, Comoros

Introduction

The Comoros are an archipelago in the Indian Ocean some 300–500 km east of Africa and 300 km north of Madagascar. The archipelago consists of four main islands, but only from Anjouan and Mayotte, the latter a French overseas department, water mite species have been reported. The first publication on water mites of the Comoros was published in 1981 (K.O. Viets 1981). However, three recent publications (Smit *et al.* 2009, 2010; Smit 2012) enhanced our knowledge of the water mite fauna of the Comoros considerably. So far, just nine species are known from Mayotte: *Teratothyasides scutulatus* Smit & Pesic, 2009, *Platymamersopsis comoros* Smit & Pesic, 2009, *Monatractides* cf. *ventriosus* (K. Viets, 1916), *Torrenticola* sp., *Hygrobates soari* Viets, 1911, *Atractides comorosensis* Smit & Pesic, 2009, *A. thoracatus* Koenike, 1898, *Africasia comorosensis* Smit & Pesic, 2010 and *Arrenurus flavus* Smit, 2012 and only one from Anjouan: *Hygrobates soari* Viets, 1911. In this paper two species new for the fauna of Mayotte are reported as well as two species new for science are described.

Material and Methods

All material was collected from streams at Mayotte (Comoros) by Nathalie Mary (Tahiti, French Polynesia) and was fixed in ethanol. In total 47 sites were visited in 12 rivers. Holotypes have been lodged in the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN), paratypes and all non-type material in Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (RMNH).

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 or adults/deutonymphs. The following abbreviations are used: Ac-1 = first acetabula, Cx-I = first coxae, Cxgl-4 = coxoglandularia 4, dL = dorsal length, Dp = dorsal plate, Ds = dorsal shield, Ec = ejaculatory complex, expo = excretory pore, F = frontal platelet, gf = genital field, H = height, L = length, I-L-6 = Leg 1, sixth segment (tarsus), mL = medial length, P-1 = palp, first segment, S-1 = large proximal ventral seta at I-L-5, S-2 = large distal ventral seta at I-L-5, Sh = shoulder platelet, Vgl = ventroglandulare, vL = ventral length.