



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

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During a hydrobiological survey conducted by Nathalie Mary a number of water mites were collected on the Comoros. Aim of this research was to monitor temporal water quality trends in major surface streams throughout the Grande Terre of Mayotte, a French overseas department, and to monitor water quality trends in selected reference and very polluted sites, in order to develop a biotic index.

Up to now, ten species of water mites from Comoros are reported in four previous publications (Smit *et al.* 2009, 2010, Smit 2012, Pešić *et al.* 2015). Almost 75% of the collected material belong to *Monatractides ventriosus*-species complex, followed by *Atractides comorosensis* (14.5%) and *Hygrobates soari* (7.5%), while other species represent only 3% of the collected material.

New material was collected by the junior author during a trip in July 2014. In total 12 localities were visited and 62 specimens of water mites were collected. This paper aims to describe this material and to enlarge our knowledge of the water mite presence and distribution on the Comoros islands.

Benthic samples were collected using a Surber sampler. All material was fixed in ethanol 70 %. Holotypes have been deposited in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), paratypes and all non-type material in Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (RMNH). Length 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: Cx-I = first coxae, Dgl-2 = dorsoglandulare 2, dL = dorsal length, H = height, L = length, I- to IV-L-6 = Leg 1 to 4, sixth segment (tarsus), P1-P5 = palp segment 1-5, vL = ventral length.

Systematic part

Family Teratothyasidae K. Viets, 1929

Teratothyasides scutulatus Smit & Pesic, 2009

Material examined. Comoros, Mayotte: River Batirini, upstream, 12° 45'53,4"S, 45° 06'28,9"E, alt. 37m asl., 24-vii-2014, 1/0.

Distribution. Known only from Mayotte, Comoros.

Family Torrenticolidae Piersig, 1902

Torrenticola comorosensis Pešić & Smit 2015

Material examined. Comoros, Mayotte: River Antanana, upstream, 12°57'55,7"S, 45°08'6,5"E, alt. 192m asl., 30-vii-2014, 1/2(one juvenile)/0; River Koualé, upstream, 12°48'46,5"S, 45°09'40,9"E, alt. 192m asl., 26-vii-2014, 0/1/0; River Djalimou, upstream, 12°56'58,4"S, 45°07'23,7"E, alt. 165m asl., 30-viii-2014, 1/0/0.

Distribution. Comoros (Mayotte).

Monatractides ventriosus—species complex

Material examined. Comoros, Mayotte: River Batirini, upstream, 12°45'53,4"S, 45°06'28,9"E, alt. 37m asl., 24-vii-2004, 1/1/0; River Chirini, upstream, 12°46'29,2"S, 45°06'57,8"E, alt. 102m asl., 24-vii-2014, 1/1/0; River Goméni,