NEW RECORDS OF WATER MITES (ACARI: HYDRACHNIDIA) FROM TURKEY

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ABSTRACT: Four water mites (Acari, Hydrachnidia) are reported from Turkey: Brachypoda baderi Di Sabatino and Ciculani, 1990 is synonymized with Brachypoda mutila Walter, 1928; additionally, three water mite species (Neumania uncinata Walter, 1927, Albia stationis Thon, 1899, and Axonopsis serrata Walter, 1928) are reported for the first time for the fauna of Turkey.

KEY WORDS: Acari, water mites, new records, running waters, Turkey

INTRODUCTION

There is very little known about water mites from running waters in Turkey and only a few regions have been intensively studied (e.g., ÖZKAN, 1982; BOYACI AND ÖZKAN, 1994; SMIT, 1995; ÖZKAN et al., 1996; Pešić et al., accepted a,b). The aim of this paper is to present new data that contribute to our knowledge about the morphology, geographical distribution, and habitat preference of Turkish water mite species recently collected from running waters in the Malatya Province (Eastern Turkey).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted in the field from living material, preserved in Koenike’s fluid, and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g., Gerecke, 1991).

Slide-mounted specimens and material preserved in fluid are lodged in the collection of the first author. The following abbreviations are used: I-L-6 = sixth segment of first leg; (1/2/3) = one
male, two females, three deutonymphs.

RESULTS

Family UNIONICOLIDAE

_Neumania uncinata_ Walter, 1927

Material examined: Malatya Province, Pütürge, Mezra stream (38°13'N 38°42'E), 900 m asl., 28.08.2003, leg. Esen (0/2/0).

Remarks: Recent studies of this species in the Mediterranean area demonstrate that _N. uncinata_ preferably inhabits pool areas with sand or gravel substrata in rivers and streams in lowlands or at middle elevations (Pešić and Gerecke, in prep.).

Distribution: Europe. New for Turkey.

Family ATURIDAE

_Albia stationis_ Thon, 1899

Material examined: Malatya Province, Arapgir, Kozluk stream, (39°04'N 38°30'E), 950 m asl., 05.07.2004, leg. Esen (0/2/0).

Distribution: Palaearctic. New for Turkey.

_Axonopsis serrata_ Walter, 1928

Material examined: Malatya Province, Arapgir, Kozluk stream, (39°04'N 38°30'E), 950 m asl., 05.07.2004, leg. Esen (8/20/0).

Remark: _A. serrata_ is a typical lenitobiont (Pešić and Gerecke, 2003).

Distribution: Central and southern parts of the western Palaearctic (Pešić and Gerecke, 2003). New for Turkey.

_Brachypoda mutila_ Walter, 1928

_Brachypoda baderi_ Di Sabatino and Cicolani, 1990, nov. syn. (Figs. 1-3)

Material examined: Malatya Province, Pütürge, Mezra stream (38°13'N 38°42'E), 900 m asl., 28.08.2003, leg. Esen (2/5/0).

Remarks: Di Sabatino and Cicolani (1990) described _Brachypoda (Hemibrachypoda) baderi_ from a stream in Italy. In the original description, Di Sabatino and Cicolani, compared this taxon with _B. mutila_, elaborating the following differences: in males: IV-L-5 with 6-7 longer setae (10-13 short spinae in _B. mutila_), IV-L-4 short and enlarged (elongated in typical specimens of _B. mutila_; see Fig. 3), three setae at the base of the apophyse, the second of which is larger vs. the first is larger in _B. mutila_; female without free platelets, these being fused with the dorsal shield (with free platelets at the end of the dorsal shield in _B. mutila_). Our studies on _B. mutila_ specimens from Turkey show considerable variability of all of these characters: we found that one juvenile

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male specimen fits well the original description of *B. baderi* concerning the shape of IV-L-4/5 (Fig. 2) and palps. Furthermore, the female with fused terminal platelets (Fig. 1) closely resembles that of *B. baderi*. The latter character shows clear geographical variability: studying the type material of *B. mutila* Di Sabatino and Cicolani (1990) reported the presence of two free terminal platelets, Tuzovskij (1978) found that in the specimens from the Caucasus these platelets are fused with the anal platelet and separated from the dorsal shield, while in the specimens from the Taurus Mts. (Turkey) the anal platelet is fused with the dorsal shield (Boyaci and Özkân, 2004). Therefore, as suggested by Tuzovskij (pers. comm.) we consider *B. baderi* a junior synonym of *B. mutila*.

Distribution: Northern Africa, Caucasus, Turkey (Boyaci and Özkân, 2004).
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ИЗ ВОД


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