



Rheophilic water mites from southern Argentina, with the description of one new genus and three new species (Acari: Hydrachnidia)

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Abstract

Water mites from Southern Argentinean streams, from Neuquén Province in the north to Tierra del Fuego Province in the south, were examined. One new genus is described, viz. *Andesobates* as well as three new species, viz. *Anisitsiellides australis*, *Protolimnesia (Protolimnesia) pampaensis* and *Andesobates longipalpis*. New observations are made for a number of other species, some of these new records representing a considerable range extension. Finally, additional illustrations are provided for *Protolimnesia longa* Besch.

Key words: Acari, Hydrachnidia, water mites, new genus, new species, Argentina.

Introduction

Almost all studies on water mites from Argentina and Chile are confined to the central and northern parts of these countries. Very few studies have been conducted on the water mites from the southern regions, i.e. south of the provinces of Río Negro in Argentina and Aisen in Chile. Only Besch (1962, 1963b, 1964) reported water mites from southern Chile and Argentina; these records were also cited in Cekalovic (1976).

In 1999 I made a collecting trip in Argentina, starting in the central part of the country and ending in Tierra del Fuego. In this paper, one new genus and three new species are described. New observations are made for species already known from the Argentine province of Neuquén to the province of Tierra del Fuego in the far south. Many of these new observations represent a considerable range extension. Species of genera usually confined to lotic habitats, e.g. *Eylais* and *Arrenurus*, which are occasionally collected in large rivers, are not treated in this paper.