

Three water mite species of the genus *Protzia* Piersig (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from the Balkan, with the description of one new species

VLADIMIR M. PESIC

Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Crna Gora, Cetinjski put b.b., 81000 Podgorica, Serbia and Montenegro (pesicv@cg.yu)

Abstract

Three water mite species of the genus *Protzia* Piersig are reported from Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria. *Protzia durmitoris* is described as new species. The first record from the Eastern Mediterranean region is given for *Protzia halberti* (Walter, 1920).

Key words: Acari, water mites, *Protzia*, new species, Balkan peninsula

Introduction

This paper deals with some new and rare water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from the Balkan peninsula. Water mites of the genus *Protzia* have been found in all biogeographic regions except for Australia and Antarctica (Cook, 1974). The aim of this paper is to contribute elements for a more comprehensive revision of the genus *Protzia* (Gerecke, 1996a, 1996b, 1999) in the western Palearctic region.

During a survey of the freshwater fauna of the Balkan peninsula (Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria), three species of the genus *Protzia* Piersig were collected, including a new species from Montenegro.

Material and methods

Water mites were collected from surface waters by hand netting, and sorted on the spot. Specimens were preserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke, 1991). Slide-mounted specimens and material preserved in fluid is lodged in the