



Water mites of the genus *Sperchon* Kramer (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Sperchontidae) from Turkey, with description of two new species

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Abstract

A survey is given of the distribution of the water mite species of the genus *Sperchon* Kramer (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Sperchontidae) in Turkey, based on all published data and numerous new records. *Sperchon* (*Hispidosperchon*) *oezkani* and *S. (Sperchon) ayyildizi* are described as new species; *Sperchon fundamentalis* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980 is synonymized with *S. glandulosus* Koenike, 1886; the first record from Turkey is given for *Sperchon (Hispidosperchon) tarnogradskii* Sokolow, 1927.

Key words: water mites, taxonomy, running waters, new records

Introduction

Water mites of the genus *Sperchon* Kramer, 1877 have been found in all biogeographic regions except for Australia and Antarctica. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the diversity, distribution and ecology of sperchontid water mites in Turkey.

At present, 14 species of the genus *Sperchon* are known from Turkey: *Sperchon (Hispidosperchon) clupeiifer* Piersig, 1896, *S. (Hispidosperchon) compactilis* Koenike, 1911, *S. (Hispidosperchon) denticulatus*, Koenike, 1895, *S. (Hispidosperchon) hispidus* Koenike, 1895, *S. (Hispidosperchon) papillosus* Thor, 1901, *S. (Hispidosperchon) rostratus* Lundblad, 1969, *S. (Hispidosperchon) setiger* Thor, 1898, *S. (Hispidosperchon) senguni* Özkan, 1982, *S. (Sperchon) brevirostris* Koenike, 1895, *S. (Sperchon) fundamentalis* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980, *S. (Sperchon) glandulosus* Koenike, 1886, *S. (Sperchon) longissimus* K. Viets, 1920, *S. (Sperchon) squamosus* Kramer, 1879 and *S. (Sperchon) thienemanni* Koenike, 1907 (Özkan 1982a, b, 1989; Özkan *et al.* 1996; Boyaci & Özkan 1994, 2007; Erman & Özkan 2000; Smit 1995; Pešić *et al.* 2007).

During a survey of the freshwater fauna of Eastern Turkey (Malatya and Bingöl Provinces—see Fig. 1), two new species of the water mite genus *Sperchon* Kramer were collected. In this paper, in addition to a survey of the Turkish sperchontids, descriptions of these species are given.

Material and methods

During field work, water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted on the spot from the living material, conserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke *et al.* 2007). The holotypes and some paratypes of the new species are deposited in the research collection of the Biology Department, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey; other paratypes are deposited in the Museum of Natural History of Podgorica (Montenegro). All material was collected by the first author.