

[Short communication]

NEW RECORDS OF MARINE WATER MITES (ACARI: HYDRACHNIDIA: PONTARACHNIDAE) FROM THE PUJADA BAY (WEST PACIFIC OCEAN) AND THE ANDAMAN SEA (INDIAN OCEAN)

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Water mites of the family Pontarachnidae Koenike have been found in tropical and temperate littoral habitats bordering the Mediterranean Sea, Aral Sea, Caspian Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean (SMIT, 2002; PEŠIĆ *et al.*, 2008a, b). Most species live in the marine littoral zone, but a few species are known to be from freshwater or brackish habitats. The family is represented by two genera: *Pontarachna* Philippi, 1840 and *Litarachna* Walter, 1925.

So far, two species, *Litarachna denhami* (Lohmann 1909) and *Litarachna sabangensis* Viets, 1984 are known from India (PEŠIĆ *et al.*, 2008a) and the Philippines (VIETS, 1984), respectively.

Materials examined in the present study were collected among sea grasses *Thalassia hemprichii* (Pujada Bay) and marine macroalgae, *Padina* (Andaman Sea). The collected sea grasses and macroalgae were washed through 38 µm sieves using the sea water to extract the animals and preserved in 70% alcohol; water mites were separated under a binocular microscope. All specimens are deposited in the Museum of Natural History of Podgorica (Montenegro).

In this paper, new records for *Pontarachna australis* Smit, 2003 (Pujada Bay, west Pacific Ocean and Andaman Sea, Indian Ocean) and *Litarachna denhami* (Lohmann, 1909) (Andaman Sea) are given (Fig. 1). This is also the first record of the genus *Pontarachna* in the Philippines and India.



Figure 1. Map of SE Asia, showing present collection sites of *Pontarachna australis* Smit (black asterisk) and *Litarachna denhami* (Lohmann) (black circle).

Pontarachna australis Smit, 2003

Material. PHILIPPINES: Mindanao Island, ca. 157 km E-SW of Davao city, north-eastern coast of Pujada Bay (close to a small community called Guang-guang) among sea grasses *Thalassia hemprichii*, 1♀, 06.1998, coll. M De Troch. INDIA: South Andaman, Mahatma Gandhi National Park (Marine Park), Wandoor, Port Blair 11°40'33.1" N 92°45'7.0" E; 22.03.2008, among sediments of macroalgae *Padina* sp., 12.09.2008 coll. Gobardhan Sahoo and Indranil Mukherjee; sea water salinity 35.5 PSU; Ph: 7.5, 1♀.

Remarks. These records include the first finding of this species in the Philippines and India. This species was first reported as being found in Western Australia by SMIT (2003) and later recorded in Taiwan by PEŠIĆ *et al.* (2008a). The distribution of this species extends from Taiwan to the Andaman Sea.

Litarachna denhami (Lohmann, 1909)

Material. INDIA: South Andaman, Mahatma Gandhi National Park (Marine Park), Wandoor, Port Blair 11°40'33.1" N 92°45'7.0" E; 22.03.2008, among sediments of macroalgae *Padina* sp, coll. Gobardhan Sahoo and Indranil Mukherjee; sea water salinity 35.5 PSU; Ph: 7.5, 2♂, 1♀; Andaman Islands, Buramanalla, 11°33'27" N 92°43'47" E, 5♀, 15.10.2008, among sediments of macroalgae *Padina* sp., coll. Gobardhan Sahoo and Indranil Mukherjee.

Remarks. This species was first reported as being found in Western Australia by Lohmann (1909), and later also recorded as being in the Red Sea (VIETS, 1959), South Africa (WILES *et al.*, 2002), Western Australia (SMIT, 2003), South Korea (PEŠIĆ *et al.*, 2008a) and Malvan, India (PEŠIĆ *et al.*, 2008a).

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НОВИ НАЛАЗИ МАРИНСКИХ ГРИЊА (ACARI: HYDRACHNIDIA:
PONTARACHNIDAE) ИЗ ПУЈАДА ЗАЛИВА (ЗАПАДНИ ПАЦИФИК) И
АНДАМАНСКОГ МОРА (ИНДИЈСКИ ОКЕАН)

ВЛАДИМИР ПЕШИЋ, ТАПАС ХАТЕРЈЕ, МАРЛЕН ДЕ ТРОХ и БАБАН ИНГОЛЕ

Извод

У раду су дати нови налази моринских гриња (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae): *Pontarachna australis* Smit, 2003 (Пујада залив, западни Пацифик и Андаманско Море, Индијски Океан) и *Litarachna denhami* (Lohmann, 1909) (Андаманско Море). Ово је први налаз рода *Pontarachna* за Филипине и Индију.

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