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Two New Species of Water-mite (Acari, Hydrachnellae)
from New Zealand

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Abstract

THE new genus *Zelandobates* is proposed and the type *Zelandobates crinitus* n.sp. described. It is a member of the widespread family Hygrobatidae. *Stygomomonia torquipes* n.sp., belonging to the family Momoniidae, is also described. *Z. crinitus* is widespread in the Wellington area as far north as the Ohau River system. It has not been looked for elsewhere. Only one individual of *S. torquipes* has been taken and the possibility of its being an inhabitant of interstitial waters is noted.

INTRODUCTION

NUMEROUS genera of the family Hygrobatidae have been described from all the major land areas of the world. The family is now found to be represented in New Zealand, initially by the new genus *Zelandobates*.

This paper also describes the new species *Stygomomonia torquipes*, a member of the family Momoniidae. In contrast to the Hygrobatidae, the Momoniidae encompass very few genera, though these are sufficiently diverse to be contained by three sub-families.

Material was stored in a fluid containing acetic acid, glycerine and water. Before dissection it was cleared in lactic acid. Dissection was done in glycerine jelly and the parts were mounted in the same medium.

Family HYGROBATIDAE

Subfamily HYGROBATINAE

Genus ZELANDOBATES n.gen.

MATERIAL: The description is based on adult specimens now lodged in the Dominion Museum, Wellington. Dimensions of two males and two females are given in Table I and parts are illustrated in Text-fig. 1.

Holotype male, dated 10.2.1965. Dominion Museum catalogue number DM 4/343.

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