

Legs lacking swimming hairs. Second to fourth legs of normal shape and each claw carrying a dorsal, curved, spinous projection. Distal segment of the 1st leg of peculiar construction, short, triangular, rotated so that true ventral surface faces upwards. At the distal end of the segment a long, curved claw projects, with a short tooth about half-way along its concave surface. At the proximal end is a claw-like projection with a large, triangular tooth and from its base rises a thin, distally directed spine. The pointed extremity of the segment carries a tuft of hairs. Fifth segment of the 1st leg larger and thicker than the other segments.

TYPE LOCALITY: Small tributary of the Akatarawa River. Reference in N.Z.M.S. 1in to 1m series, N156, 642619.

REMARKS: The family Momoniidae is characterised by the curious construction of the distal segment of the 1st leg. There are three sub-families, Momoniinae containing *Momonium* Halbert and *Momoniella* Viets, Momonidinae containing *Momonides* Lundblad, and Stygomomoniinae containing *Stygomomonium* Szalay.

The female on which the present description is based is quite similar to that of *Stygomomonium latipes* Szalay of Europe and *S. rotunda* Imamura of Japan. It differs principally in the complete sclerotisation of the ventral area behind the genitalia and in the presence of a dorsal cross suture. In *S. latipes* and *S. rotunda* the post-genital area carries two separate sclerotised plates.

As its name suggests, the genus *Stygomomonium* is principally known from subterranean habitats (Viets 1955, Imamura 1957). The present species was isolated from a collection taken in surface waters but was perhaps outside its normal environment. It may well be a member of an interstitial fauna within the gravels of the stream bed. This possibility is heightened by the presence in the same collection of a species of *Wandesia* (family Protziidae), a genus known to inhabit interstitial waters (Schwoerbel, 1962).

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