Acarologia is proudly non-profit,
with no page charges and free open access

Please help us maintain this system by
couraging your institutes to subscribe to the print version of the journal
and by sending us your high quality research on the Acari.

Subscriptions: Year 2022 (Volume 61): 450 €
http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/ACAROLOGIA/subscribe.php
Previous volumes (2010-2020): 250 € / year (4 issues)
Acarologia, CBGP, CS 30016, 34988 MONTFERRIER-sur-LEZ Cedex, France
ISSN 0044-586X (print), ISSN 2107-7207 (electronic)

The digitalization of Acarologia papers prior to 2000 was supported by Agropolis Fondation under
the reference ID 1500-024 through the « Investissements d’avenir » programme
(Labex Agro: ANR-10-LABX-0001-01)

Acarologia is under free license and distributed under the terms of the
Creative Commons-BY.
A new species of *Litarachna* Walter, 1925 (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from Corozal Bay (Belize), described based upon morphology and DNA barcodes

Lucia Montes-Ortiz\(^a\), Tom Goldschmidt\(^b\), Lourdes Vásquez-Yeomans\(^a\), Manuel Elías-Gutiérrez\(^a\)

\(^a\)El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Avenida Centenario km 5.5, Chetumal 77014, Quintana Roo, México.
\(^b\)Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Münchhausenstraße 21, D-81247 München, Germany.

Original research

ABSTRACT

A new planktonic species of the marine water mites of the family Pontarachnidae Koenike, 1910 is described from Corozal Bay, an estuarine system in Belize. The morphological description includes Scanning Electronic Microscope (SEM) images and is augmented by an analysis of DNA cytochrome c oxidase I (COI) sequences, the DNA barcode, used for the first time for a species description in this group.

Keywords Integrative taxonomy; *Litarachna belicensis* n. sp.; plankton; estuary; Chetumal Bay

Zoobank http://zoobank.org/BFB2B682-ED8C-4272-954D-78EDD079A444

Introduction

The Pontarachnidae Koenike, composed of two genera, *Pontarachna* Philippi, 1840 and *Litarachna* Walter, 1925, is the only water mite family with species occurring in marine habitats. Overall, 23 species of the genus *Litarachna* have been described (Chatterjee et al. 2019) mainly from the intertidal zone of tropical and temperate oceans including the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean (Smit 2002; Pešić et al. 2012; Pešić et al. 2019; Chatterjee et al. 2019). Some species occur in estuarine systems as well as in freshwater, e.g. *Litarachna brasiliensis* Smit, 2007, while others live in shallow coastal marine waters, and some even extend to depths up to 70 m (Pešić et al. 2014), and one is a planktonic species (*Litarachna kamui* Uchida, 1935). Only four species are recorded from the tropical west Atlantic Ocean, with three occurring in the Caribbean Sea: *L. caribica*, *L. degiustii* and *L. lopezae* (Pešić et al. 2008; Pešić et al. 2012; Chatterjee et al. 2019). In general, the biology and ecology of this group of water mites is mostly unexplored, and little is known about distributional patterns and endemism, particularly in the marine provinces of the American continent (Chatterjee et al. 2019).

Here we describe a new species of *Litarachna* from Corozal Bay, an estuarine system in Belize, a region within the Yucatan Peninsula biogeographic zone. This species represents the second reported planktonic pontarachnid (*Litarachna*) mite. It is the first record for Belize, and we present the first DNA barcodes in a description for a member of this family.

How to cite this article Montes-Ortiz L. et al. (2021), A new species of *Litarachna* Walter, 1925 (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from Corozal Bay (Belize), described based upon morphology and DNA barcodes. *Acarologia* 61(3): 602-613. https://doi.org/10.24349/r7no-Ludg
**Material and methods**

The specimens were collected in open water from Corozal Bay, a binational embayment shared by Mexico and Belize, forming part of Chetumal Bay (Figure 1). A standard plankton net of 0.5 m mouth diameter and a mesh size of 0.333 mm was used to perform a vertical tow during a night sampling survey. The associated data in the collection site are presented in Table 1. Samples were sieved, washed and fixed using 96% ethanol and stored at -18 °C for seven days (Elías-Gutiérrez et al. 2018).

The mites were sorted under a stereomicroscope and one male, and one female were photographed using a Zeiss Discovery stereomicroscope with an Eos Rebel T3i camera. SEM images were obtained from a Jeol JSM-SM-6010LA at the Chetumal unit of El Colegio de la Frontera Sur. An additional five individuals were used for molecular analyses using a non-destructive DNA extraction method (Porco et al. 2010). After the process, we recovered three specimens which were dissected and mounted in glycerin jelly. Whole specimens and the dissected parts were examined, measured and drawn under a compound microscope Olympus BX51 with a camera lucida, and the results were compared with prior documentation of this family of water mites (Cook 1996; Smit 2002; Smit 2007; Smit and Alberti 2010; Pešić et al. 2014; Moto and Abé 2014; Chatterjee et al. 2019). All specimens and preparations

---

**Table 1** Sampling data.

| Site  | Depth (m) | Salinity (ppt) | DO%  | pH  | Temp (°C) | Time in     | Time out    |
|-------|-----------|----------------|------|-----|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Point 3 | 2.8       | 20.7           | 6.71 | 8.02 | 26.1      | 20:46 pm    | 20:57 pm    |
were deposited in the Reference Collection of Zooplankton at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR, Chetumal, Mexico).

Molecular analysis. DNA extraction was carried out using a standard glass fiber method (Ivanova et al. 2006) modified following Porco et al. (2010) for voucher recovery. Specimens were recovered after the lysis step from the glass fiber filter plates or the 96 well original plates and preserved in Koenike fluid.

After the DNA extraction, the PCR mixtures contained a final volume of 12.5 μL, including 2 μL of Hyclone ultra-pure water, 6.25 μL of 10% trehalose (previously prepared: 5 g D-(+)-trehalose dehydrate, in 50 ml of total volume of molecular grade ddH2O), 1.25 μL of 10X PCR buffer, 0.625 μL of MgCl2 (50 mM), 0.0625 μL of dNTP (10 mM), 0.125μL of each primer (10μM), 0.06 μL of Platinum Taq DNA polymerase and 2 μL of DNA template. Extracts were amplified with the Zooplankton primers (ZplankF1_t1 and ZplankR1_t1, see Prosser et al. 2013 for details). The reactions were cycled at 94 °C for 1 min, followed by five cycles of 94 °C for 40 sec, 45 °C for 40 sec and 72 °C for 1 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 40 sec, 51 °C for 40 sec and 72 °C for 1 min, with a final extension of 72 °C for 5 minutes. PCR products were visualized on a 2% agarose gels (E-Gel 96 Invitrogen), and positive PCR products were selected for sequencing bidirectionally at Eurofins Scientific.

Sequences were edited using Codon Code v. 3.0.1 and uploaded to the Barcode of Life database (BOLD: available at www.boldsystems.org) and are in the public dataset DS-LITBEL. The sequences were included in a maximum likelihood (ML) tree generated with 10,000 replicates using MEGA version X (Kumar et al. 2018); two sequences from L. communis were mined from GeneBank database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/) and a group of ten sequences of Atractides genus were mined from BOLD to root the tree (Table 2); this genus was selected since they belong to the same Hymenoptera superfamily as the pontarachnids and include high quality sequences.

All measurements are given in μm. Terminology and abbreviations in the description of the new species follow Moto and Abé (2014) and Gerecke et al. (2016) except for the new abbreviations for the wheel acetabula.

Abbreviations pertaining to morphology of the body: Cx-I-IV = first to fourth coxae, Cxgl-2 = coxoglandularia 2, Cxgl-4 = coxoglandularia 4, L = length, Vgl = ventroglandularia, Vst = ventral setae, W = width, W-1 = wheel acetabula antero-lateral pair, W-2 = wheel acetabula antero-medial pair, W-3 = wheel acetabula posterior pair.

### Table 2
Sequences used in the molecular study.

| Species                  | Locality                                      | Deposition place                     | ID         | Barcode Index Number (BIN) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Litarachna communis      | Marine littoral Punta Spano, Corsica (France) | Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (Netherlands) | NLACA998   | ADD6045                    |
|                          |                                               |                                     | NLACA1000  |                            |
| Litarachna belicensis n. sp. | Corozal bay (Belize)                             | El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Unidad Chetumal (México) | YUCWM193   | AEB8019                    |
|                          |                                               |                                     | YUCWM192   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | CFWIA621   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | CFWIB562   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | CFWIB563   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | CFWIB564   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | CFWIB565   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | BACWM152   |                            |
| Atractides sp.           | Los Angeles, E. Fork San Gabriel (United States of America) | Stroud Water Research Center (United States of America) | BACWM263   | ACX7786                    |
|                          |                                               |                                     | BACWM044   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | BACWM125   |                            |
| Atractides sp.           | Bacalar, Quintana Roo (México)                 | El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, unidad Chetumal (México) | BACWM263   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | BACWM044   |                            |
|                          |                                               |                                     | BACWM125   |                            |
Abbreviations pertaining to appendages (palp, leg): I- to IV-Leg-1-6 = first to sixth segments of leg I to IV, P-1 to P-5 = palp segments 1 to 5.
Abbreviations pertaining to molecular information: BIN = Barcode Index Number, COI = cytochrome oxidase subunit I.

Results

Family Pontarachnidae Koenike, 1910
Genus Litarachna Walter, 1925

Litarachna belicensis n. sp.

Zoobank: A09F5614-209C-4446-A6F6-5BE541E56D97 (Figures 2–6)

Type series — Holotype: female, Corozal Bay, Belize (18°37’27.7”N 88°28’4.44”W), 3-5 m depth, substrate mainly calcareous rocks and sand, also sea grass and some spots of fuzzy finger algae (Batophora oerstedi), collection from a planktonic sample from 2.8 m depth, 7 May 2019; dissected and slide mounted in glycerin jelly. Paratypes: one male, same collecting data and processing as holotype.

Diagnosis — Suture between Cx-II and Cx-III incomplete, suture between Cx-III and Cx-IV complete (Figure 6A and D). Postero-medial apodemes twice length of postero-lateral apodemes in both female and male. Ventral projection in P-2 (Figure 3B and 5B), in male very long perigenital setae surrounding the genital field, U-shaped (Figure 5A).

Description — Female (n=1): Idiosoma L/W 476/357. Anterior coxal group separated medially. Suture lines between Cx-II and Cx-III incomplete. Suture lines between Cx-I and Cx-II, and complete between Cx-III and Cx-IV. Posterior margin of Cx-IV with two pairs of long apodemes, extending beyond the genital field, postero-lateral apodemes half as long as postero-medial apodemes (Figures 2, 3, 6A-C)

Genital field L/W 78/47. Pregenital and postgenital sclerite fused, forming a ring around genital opening. Cxgl-2 and associated seta (sensu Cook 1974) lie between genital field and the fourth coxae. Posterior to the genital field, a lateral pair of Vgl, and three pairs of wheel-like acetabula (sensu Cook 1996), W-1 with nine radiating spokes, W-2 with eight and seven radiating spokes and W-3 with 10 radiating spokes (Figures 3 and 4). A pair of platelets bearing two pores latero-anteriorly to the excretory pore. Excretory pore sclerotized in subterminal position.

Palp (Figure 3C) total L 194, dorsal L (% of total L): P-1 27 (14%), P-2 33 (17%), P-3 40 (20%), P-4 71 (36%), P-5 25 (13%), P-2 bearing a ventral projection (Figure 3B). L of I-Leg-3-6: 34, 51, 60, 85; II-Leg-3-6: 40, 51, 88, 91; III-Leg-3-6: 28, 52, 95, 85 and IV-Leg-3-6: 57, 95, 119, 104, Leg III and Leg IV each with one swimming seta (Figure 3).

One ovigerous female from the material contained two eggs with a L/W 170/110 (Figure 8).

Male (n=1): Idiosoma L/W 400/348. First coxal plates fused as in the female, suture lines between Cx-II and Cx-III medially incomplete, suture lines complete between Cx-I and Cx-II, as well as between Cx-III and Cx-IV. Postero-medial apodemes twice as long as postero-lateral apodemes, reaching to posterior end of genital field (Figure 6D). Between posterior and lateral apodemes Cxgl-4.

Genital field L/W 35/28, genital sclerites forming a complete ring with four pairs of setae (Figure 5C), many long perigenital setae (>95) free in the integument surrounding the genital field in a U-shaped form with less dense cover of setae anteriorly and markedly increasing density towards posterior part (Figure 5B); one pair of tiny, wheel-like acetabula at center of perigenital setae, close to the genital opening (Figure 5C). Genital opening flanked by centrally extended lamellae, posterior to the genital field two pores and two pairs of wheel-like acetabula.

Montes-Ortiz L. et al. (2021), Acarologia 61(3): 602-613. https://doi.org/10.24349/r7no-Ludg 605
Figure 2 *Litarachna belicensis* n. sp. Female: A - Dorsal view; B - ventral view. Male: C - Dorsal view; D - Ventral view. Scalebar = 100 μm.

(sensu Cook 1996), W-1, W-3 with nine radiating spokes, W-2 with six and four radiating spokes (Figure 5).

Palp (Figure 5A - B) total L 186, dorsal L (% of total L): P-1 28 (15%), P-2 38 (21%), P-3 40 (22%), P-4 57 (31%), P-5 22 (11%), P-2 bearing a ventral projection (Figure 5B).
Figure 3 SEM micrographs of *Litarachna belicensis* n. sp. Female: A - Habitus (W-1 wheel acetabula, W-2, W-3); B - palps (arrows point at ventral processes on P-2); C - genital field.
of I-Leg-3-6: 39, 50, 64, 54; II-Leg-3-6: 39, 50, 64, 54; III-Leg-3-6: 39, 53, 92, 89 and IV-Leg-3-6: 46, 89, 100, 100.

**DNA sequence (CO1)** — Two sequences were obtained and resulted in the following consensus sequence:

```
CTCTATTTTGCTTTAGGAAGATGATCAGGCATAATGGGAACAAGACTTAG50
AACTTTAATTCGATTAGAATTAGGTCAACCAGGAGCACTAATTGGCAATG100
AACAAATCTA TAACGTATAC GTAACAGCTC ATGCAATTATATAAATTTTT150
TTCTAATGTA TAACCCAAAT AATTGGAGGT TTTGGAATTT GATTAGTCTCC200
GCTAATAATC AGAGCCCCCG ATATAAGCCT TCCCCGTATA AATAACATAA250
GATTCTGACT TTACCTCCCA GCCCTTATCC TTCTTCAAC AAGATACATA300
AGATCAATAG GAGCTTGGTAC AGGCTGAACA GTTACCCCT CCTCTCAG350
AAATTTGGGT CACTCAGGAC CATCCGTGGA CTAAACATTC TTCTTCTCC400
ATTATAGCTGG TATTTTATCC ATCTTTGAGG CCATCAACTT TAGCAACA450
ATTAAATA TAAACCTTCC CCAATATAT AATGCCAAG TACCCCTATT500
TGTATGATCA ATTTTGATCA CAACCATCTT CCTTTTCTCT TCATTTTCCAG550
TCTTAGCAAG AGCCCATACG ATGGTTTCAA CTGACCCGAG ATCCAACACT600
TCATTCTTTG ATCCAGCCGG TGGAGGTGAT CCAATTTTAC ACCACATT700
```

**Etymology** — This species is named for the country where it was collected.
Figure 5 SEM micrographs of *Litarachna belicensis* n. sp. Male: A - Habitus; B - palps (ventral view, arrows point at ventral processes on P-2); C - genital field and area posterior to genital field, including medial pair of wheel-like acetabula (W-2) (note that the image is rotated, the upper left corner oriented to posterior).
Figure 6  *Litarachna belicensis* n. sp. Female holotype A – idiosoma; C – IV leg; D – palp. Male paratype B – idiosoma; F – IV leg; E – palp.
Discussion

The new species *Litarachna belicensis n. sp.* is quite similar to *L. communis* Walter, 1925, originally described in France and with distribution in Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Turkey (Mediterranean Sea) and Russia (Black Sea), in the complete suture lines between Cx-I and -II as well as Cx-III and -IV and the idiosoma length (*L. belicensis* 476 – *L. communis* 465); however, the new species differs from *L. communis* in the presence of a ventral projection on P-2 and in the absence of two spiniform setae on P-2. Furthermore, the two species differ in the length and width of the apodemes: in *L. belicensis* postero-medial hook shaped apodemes are wider and twice as long as postero-lateral apodemes, while in *L. communis* both postero-medial and lateral apodemes are the same length and wide. *Litarachna belicensis n. sp.* is similar to *L. degiustii* Cook, 1958 from Bahamas and Netherland Antilles (Caribbean Sea) and *L. caribica* Pešić et al. 2008 from Panama (Pacific Ocean) and Netherland Antilles (Caribbean Sea), in the shape and size of postero-medial apodemes. The new species differs from these two in the absence of a ventral setal tubercle on P-4, also in the size of postero-lateral apodemes (strongly reduced in the latter two species) and in the state of the suture lines from the coxl plates (both in *L. caribica* and in *L. degiustii* suture lines between Cx-II and Cx-III and between Cx-III and Cx-IV are incomplete).

![Figure 7](https://doi.org/10.24349/r7no-Ludg)

Figure 7  Maximum Likelihood tree, based on COI sequences.

The ML tree generated from COI DNA barcode sequences (Figure 7) reveals that *L. belicensis n. sp.* is a highly divergent lineage from *L. communis*, 23% different by K2P. This result agrees with other studies which report similar genetic distances for congeners in the group (Martin et al. 2010; Pešić and Smit 2020). The BOLD grouping algorithm assigns the two species to different Barcode Index Number, BINs: *L. communis* ADD6045 and *L. belicensis n. sp* AEB8019 (Ratnasingham and Hebert 2013). These data suggest that *L. belicensis n. sp.* has a long independent history associated with an ancient separation from the European water mite *L. communis*, the same could probably be expected for other pontarachnid species in distant marine provinces.

This study is the first to apply an integrative morphological and genetic approach to species delimitation in this family. Our results, in addition to the biogeographic segregation of the new species, confirm the separate identity of *L. belicensis* as a new species. The integration of molecular data in this study and the future growth of DNA-sequence databases with high quality sequences and complete metadata should contribute to the elucidation of the
taxonomic placement of pontarachnid mites, especially the position of *Litarchna* within the Pontarachnidae as well as of Pontarachnidae within Hydrachnidia. Additional morphological and genetic studies of this enigmatic group will further help to understand their special biology and ecology and to clarify the distribution patterns and degrees of endemism.

**Acknowledgements**

The financial support to develop this work was provided by the project “Conservation of Coastal Marine Resources in Central America (Phase II)”, administered by MAR Fund and financed by the Government of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW). Our gratitude goes to Mr. Joel Verde, Executive Director of Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD); we also thank the field support from Beatry Verde, Liliany Tamai, Gisel Tepaz, Esmiri Pat, Cesar Muñoz, Honorio Santos, Jose Viamil, and Reynel Blanco.

The result presented here is part of the doctoral investigation research of the first author, being conducted in El Colegio de la Frontera Sur with funds of the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT). We thank Alma Estrella García Morales from the Chetumal Node of MEXBOL who assisted with molecular analysis, Holger Weissenberger, from El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, for the elaboration of the map and Harry Smit who provided us
fasta files from *L. communis*. We are in debt with Benjamin C. Victor and Monica R. Young who kindly performed a style and english review of the manuscript.

We are grateful to anonymous reviewers and Joanna Małkol for their constructive comments which greatly improved this work.

**References**

Chatterjee T., Schizas N. V., Pešić V. 2019. A checklist of Pontarachnidae (Acari: Hydrachnidia) and notes on distributional patterns of the species. Zootaxa, 4619(3): 527-544. [https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4619.3.6](https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4619.3.6)

Cook D. 1996. A freshwater species of *Pontarachna*, (Acari: Pontarachnidae) from South Africa with a discussion of genital acetabula in the family. An. Inst. Biol. Univ. Nac. Auton. México, Ser. Zool., 67(2): 259-264.

Elías-Gutiérrez M., Valdez-Moreno M., Topan J., Young M.R., Cohuo-Colli J.A. 2018. Improved protocols to accelerate the assembly of DNA barcode reference libraries for freshwater zooplankton. Ecol. Evol., 8(5): 3002-3018. [https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.3.3742](https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.3.3742)

Gerecke R., Gledhill T., Pešić V., Smit H. 2016. Chelicerata: Acari III. In: Gerecke R., ed. Süßwasserfauna von Mitteleuropa, Bd. 7/2-3. Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, pp. 1-429. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-8274-2689-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-8274-2689-5)

Elías-Gutiérrez M., Valdez-Moreno M., Topan J., Young M.R., Cohuo-Colli J.A. 2018. Improved protocols to accelerate the assembly of DNA barcode reference libraries for freshwater zooplankton. Ecol. Evol., 8(5): 3002-3018. [https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.3.3742](https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.3.3742)

Gerecke R., Gledhill T., Pešić V., Smit H. 2016. Chelicerata: Acari III. In: Gerecke R., ed. Süßwasserfauna von Mitteleuropa, Bd. 7/2-3. Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, pp. 1-429. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-8274-2689-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-8274-2689-5)

Ivanova N. V., Dewaard J.R., Hebert P.D.N. 2006. An inexpensive, automation-friendly protocol for recovering high-quality DNA. Mol. Ecol. Notes, 6(4): 998-1002. [https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-8286.2006.01428.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-8286.2006.01428.x)

Kumar S., Stecher G., Li M., Knyaz C., Tamura K. 2018. MEGA X: Molecular evolutionary genetics analysis across computing platforms. Mol. Biol. Evol., 35(6): 1547-1549. [https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msy096](https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msy096)

Martin P., Dabert M., Dabert J. 2010. Molecular evidence for species separation in the water mite *Hygrobates nigromaculatus* Lebert, 1879 (Acari: Hydrachnidia): Evolutionary consequences of the loss of larval parasitism. Aquat. Sci., 72(3): 347-360. [https://doi.org/10.1007/s00027-010-0135-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00027-010-0135-x)

Montes-Ortiz L. et al. (2021), *Acarologia* 61(3): 602-613. [https://doi.org/10.24349/r7no-Ludg613](https://doi.org/10.24349/r7no-Ludg613)

Moto A., Abé H. 2014. *Litarachna communis* Walter, 1925 (Acari: Hydrachnidiae: Pontarachnidae): Taxonomic status, lectotype and paralectotype designation and redescription. Acarologia, 54(2): 201-219. [https://doi.org/10.1051/acarologia/20142128](https://doi.org/10.1051/acarologia/20142128)

Pešić V., Chatterjee T., Alfaro M., Schizas N.V. 2014. A new species of *Litarachna* (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from a Caribbean mesophotic coral ecosystem. Zookeys, 97(425): 89-97. [https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.425.8110](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.425.8110)

Pešić V., Chatterjee T., Alfaro M., Schizas N.V. 2014. A new species of *Litarachna* (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from a Caribbean mesophotic coral ecosystem. Zookeys, 97(425): 89-97. [https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.425.8110](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.425.8110)

Pešić V., Schizas N. V. 2008. Marine water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from the Caribbean sea, with description of one new species. Cah. Biol. Mar., 49(3): 253-259.

Pešić V., Chatterjee T., Alfaro M., Schizas N.V. 2014. A new species of *Litarachna* (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from a Caribbean mesophotic coral ecosystem. Zookeys, 97(425): 89-97. [https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.425.8110](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.425.8110)

Pešić V., Chatterjee T., Schizas N.V. 2012. A new species of *Pontarachna* (Acari: Hydrachnidia: Pontarachnidae) from a mesophotic coral ecosystem of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, Caribbean Sea. Zootaxa, 3440: 63-67. [https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3440.1.3](https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3440.1.3)

Pešić V., Durucan F., Zawal A. 2019. Marine mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) of the Mediterranean Sea: Descriptions of two new species, key for identification and future prospects. Zootaxa, 4585(3): 501-516. [https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4585.3.6](https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4585.3.6)

Pešić V., Smit H. 2020. *Mideopsis milankovici* sp. nov. a new water mite from Montenegro based on morphological and molecular data (Acariformes: Hydrachnidia: Mideopsidae). Acarologia, 60(3): 566-575.

Porco D., Rougerie R., Deharveng L., Hebert P. 2010. Coupling non-destructive DNA extraction and voucher retrieval for small soft-bodied arthropods in a high-throughput context: The example of Collembola. Mol. Ecol. Resour., 10(6): 942-945. [https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.12.2.8](https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.12.2.8)

Prosser S., Martínez-Arce A., Elías-Gutiérrez M. 2013. A new set of primers for COI amplification from freshwater microcrustaceans. Mol. Ecol. Resour., 13(6): 1151-1155. [https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.12.2.8](https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.12.2.8)

Ratnasingham S., Hebert P.D.N. 2013. A DNA-Based Registry for All Animal Species: The Barcode Index Number (BIN) System. PLoS One, 8(7). [https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0066213](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0066213)

Smit H. 2007. *Litarachna brasiliensis* n. sp., the first member of the water mite family Pontarachnidae from South America. Syst. Appl. Acarol., 12(2): 141-146. [https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.12.2.8](https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.12.2.8)

Smit H., Alberti G. 2010. The water mite family Pontarachnidae, with new data on its peculiar morphological structures (Acari: Hydrachnidia). Trends Acarol., 71-79. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-90-481-9837-5_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-90-481-9837-5_11)