Data on the distribution of freshwater harpacticoids (Crustacea, Copepoda) in Tierra del Fuego (Argentina)

APOSTOL APOSTOLOV¹, IVAN PANDOURSKI²

¹1, Knjaz A. Batenberg Blvd. entr. A, 8000 Burgas, Bulgaria, apostolov2003@abv.bg
²Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria, pandourski12@gmail.com

Abstract. All available data on the distribution of freshwater harpacticoids (Copepoda) in Grande de Tierra del Fuego Island are summarized. Attheyella (Delachauxiella) nuda Léffler, 1961 inhabiting wet mosses in the valley of Martial Glacier near Ushuaia is newly established. The site marks the southernmost distribution of the species in Argentina.

Key words: Attheyella, Harpacticoida, distribution, South America.

Introduction


Till the end of 20th century the freshwater harpacticoids of the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego were poorly known. Only Attheyella trigonura (Ekman, 1905) was signaled for this southernmost part of Argentina. Apostolov studying the fauna of wet mosses of the Martiel Glacier valley near Ushuaia described two new species: Maraenobiotus australis Apostolov, 2000 and Antarctobiotus muscicolus Apostolov, 2001.

The aim of present communication is to provide additional data for harpacticoid fauna of the Grande de Tierra del Fuego Island.

Material and Methods

2 ♀♀ Attheyella (Delachauxiella) nuda gathered from wet mosses in the valley of Martial Glacier near Ushuaia, Grande de Tierra del Fuego Island, Argentina (54° 47’ 13.67” S, 68° 23’ 38.12” W), altitude 630 m, 11.01.1999.

Samples were collected by many times rinsing bryophytes and then filtering the water through a hand-held net. The material was fixed in 70% ethanol for long-term storage.

Results and Discussion

The two studied female specimens belongs to Attheyella (Delachauxiella) nuda and completely fit with the original species description given by Löffler (1961) on the basis of female individuals found in two forest lakes: Vilarica and Llianquihue in Southern Chile.

During the study of soil fauna in Argentina Rouch (1962) reported the species Attheyella (Delachauxiella) nuda in South America (Andean Patagonia) at the following six locations without precise coordinates:
- El Bolson. Sol humide de Libocedrus;
- Arroyo Pilmaiquen. Réserve du Nahuel Huapi;
- Lago Puelo, Province de Chubut;
- Sable fin avec débrie de Nothofagus;
- Las Azucemas. Province de Tucuman, 1500 m d’altitude;
- Lago Futalauquen.

A. (Delachauxiella) nuda mainly inhabits wet mosses. According to Rouch (1962) it successfully colonized Libocedrus wet soil and fine sand with Nothofagus debris. As Rouch (op. cit.) points out, the species is still found in the coastal interstitial waters of forest lakes.

Acknowledgements. We are grateful to Bulgarian Antarctic Institute who organized the stay of Dr I. Pandourski in Ushuaia after the VIIth Bulgarian Antarctic Expedition.

References