

CHELICERATA

Arachnida

Compiled by Anastasios Legakis

The list of the marine arachnids is definitely not complete. There are two reasons for this situation. One is that references to marine arachnids are scattered in various entomological publications some of which are old and not readily available. Second, the definition of a marine arachnid is not commonly agreed. Some authors consider them as arachnids found in marine habitats while others include those that are sporadically associated with the marine environment. The definition proposed by Chang & Frank (1993) for marine insects which could apply to marine arachnids as well, considers as marine species an insect which spends at least one of its developmental stages habitually in a marine habitat. Even in this case there are some who consider the supralittoral zone as terrestrial (Bigot *et al.*, 1984). In this list, the supralittoral zone is excluded as a very large number of species would have to be included.

The list was compiled using Riedl (1970) and Hayward & Ryland (1995).

References

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Class Arachnida

Order Pseudoscorpiones

Family Neobisiidae

Neobisium

maritimum (Leach)

Acarina

Halacaridae

Compiled by Ilse Bartsch

The list of species covers halacarid mites, family Halacaridae, Superfamily Halacaroidea, suborder Prostigmata. It is the only mite family which completely is adapted to life in the sea; halacarids are part of the benthos from the upper littoral fringe to the deep sea. The northeastern Atlantic Ocean, with adjacent seas, is an area studied intensely in respect to its halacarid fauna and assumedly half of the species are known. The most relevant descriptive papers are listed below.

Beside halacarids, numerous other mites inhabit tidal and shallow subtidal areas. Seashore mites in tidal areas, belonging to the 'terrestrial moiety', are representatives of the suborders Mesostigmata, Astigmata, Prostigmata, and Cryptostigmata (Oribatei). Another mite family, the Pontarachnidae (Prostigmata) are commonly found in warm waters regions, in a depth of 0-10 m. The Pontarachnidae are most similar and closely related to

freshwater 'Hydrachneidae'. It is intended to include these groups in future editions of ERMS.

References

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