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Taxonomic Diversity of Fresh-water Hydrophilous Mites (non-Hydrachnellae) of the
Kamchatka Peninsula

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Таксономическое разнообразие пресноводных гидрофильных клещей
(non-Hydrachnellae) п-ва Камчатка

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Our knowledge of the fresh-water hydrophilous mites of the Kamchatka peninsula is fragmentary. Fresh-water oribatid mites were never reported from the region (Pan'kov, Ryabinin, Golosova, 1997). No data are available on halacarid (Prostigmata: Halacarinae) (Tumanov, 1997) and astigmatid (Astigmata) mites.

T.L.Vvedenskaya collected mites from several waterbodies of the Kamchatka peninsula: lakes Kuril'skoye, Bol'shoy Vilyui, Palanskoye, Tikhoye and the river Mikizha (a branch of the river Paratunka). The studied water-bodies are located in different part of the peninsula. The lake Palanskoye is located on the north of Kamchatka. The lakes Bol'shoy Vilyui and Tikhoye and the river Mikizha are located close to the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii. One hundred and sixty four samples were taken in 1996-1999. Most samples were taken in shallow parts of the littoral zone, including those with vegetation associations. Several deep-water benthic samples were taken using the GION sampler up to the maximum depth of 198 m. The fish stomachs were also checked for mite presence.

Mites were found at all depths. The fauna of hydrophilous mites consists of several major taxa: families Thypochthoniidae, Malaconothridae, Hydrozetidae, Limnozetidae (Oribatida) and Porohalacaridae (Prostigmata). Mostly the oribatid mites were confined to shallow waters whilst the halacaridae were found at larger depths.