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Maandelijkse vergadering van 4 mei 1988

Communications / Mededelingen :

1. Au nom de M. A. FAIN, excusé, le secrétaire présente la communication suivante.

**Observations on the acarofauna of
fish-aquariums. III. Presence of
Hydrozetes lemnae (Coggi, 1899)
(Cryptostigmata) in aquariums in Belgium**

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In two previous papers (FAIN & LAMBRECHTS, 1987a and 1987b) we have reported the presence in several fish aquariums in Antwerp of oribatid mites, one of them (*Hydronthrus aquariorum* FAIN & LAMBRECHTS, 1987) being harmful for the fish. We report herein, for the first time, the presence of another species of aquatic oribatids, *Hydrozetes lemnae* (COGGI, 1899), also in aquariums in Antwerp.

During our previous studies we had already found, but without mentioning it, a few number of these mites on the bottom of 4 aquariums from 3 different places in Antwerp. Two of these aquariums (n° M1 and M3) contained also other mites already reported (FAIN and LAMBRECHTS, 1987b).

Recently, one of us (L.L.) was consulted about an adult *Discus* fish. The fish was heavily infected by a Protozoa, *Chilodonella* sp. and at a point of death. By examining the fish he noticed the presence on the gills of several oribatid mites completely embedded in an accumulation of mucus (fig. 1). They belonged to *Hydrozetes lemnae*. About 30 other specimens of that species were found in the debris covering the bottom of this aquarium. The mite was represented by all its development stages. *Hydrozetes lemnae* has already been found causing mechanical obstruction in the mouth of tadpoles (GRAND-

JEAN, 1949). This mite is common in waters in several countries of Europe. It is the first time that it is recorded from Belgium.

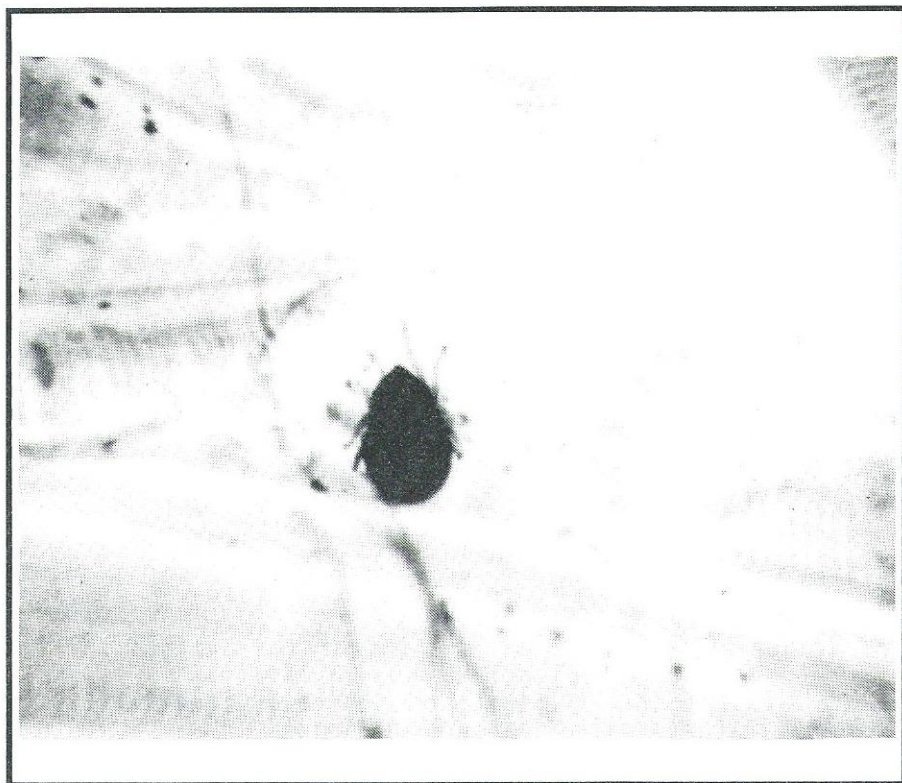


Fig. 1. A specimen of *Hydrozetes lemnae* embedded in mucus on the gills of *Discus* fish.

References

- FAIN, A. & LAMBRECHTS, L., 1987a. - Observations on the acarofauna of fish-aquariums. I. Mites associated with *Discus* fish. *Bull. Annl. Soc. r. belge Ent.* 123: 87-102.
- FAIN, A. & LAMBRECHTS, L., 1987b. - Observations on the acarofauna of fish-aquariums. II. A new oribatid and two new halacarid mites. *Bull. Annl. Soc. r. belge Ent.* 123: 103-118.
- GRANDJEAN, F., 1949. - Sur le genre *Hydrozetes* BERL. (Acarieus). *Bull. Mus. 2e sér.* 21: 224-231.