Water mites (Hydrachnidia) of the rivers Teno and Kemi, Finnish Lappland

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Water mite fauna of subarctic streams (R. Teno and its tributaries) was compared with fauna of silvatic streams situated in the middle parts of Kemijoki river system, Finnish Lapland. A total of c. 26-27 mite species were recorded; 16-17 of these in subarctic streams and 23-24 in silvatic streams. Species rich mite families in northern streams are Sperchonidae (6 taxa in silvatic and 3 in subarctic streams), Lebertiidae (3-4 taxa in both stream types) and Hygrobatidae (8 taxa in silvatic and 6 in subarctic streams). In silvatic streams, the catches of water mites (ind./sample) were higher in June-July than in autumn while the situation was opposite in R. Teno and its tributaries were catches of water mites as well as other invertebrates were very low in June perhaps depending on strong floods. New water mites to Limnofauna area 21 are *Sperchonopsis verrucosa*, *Sperchon glandulosus*, *Teutonia cometes*, *Hygrobates calliger*, *Atractides nodipalpis*, and *A. tener*.

Key words: northern streams, water mites, diversity, phenology.

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