PROTURA DISTRIBUTION RIDING THE *WALLACEA*

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Due to their characteristics (small size, low mobility, low probability of mediated dispersal), soil borne arthropods seem to be good models for biogeographical analysis. Knowledge about Protura is still scarce, but, thanks to the work of many Authors (Imadaté, Tuxen, Womersley, Yin, among others), Asian and Australian faunas are rather well-known. In our contribution we analyzed the distribution of Protura in the Oriental and Australasian Regions (conservatively excluding New Zealand, considered, at least partially, Antarctic), across the so-called Wallacea, referring to the ranges outlined in the Catalogue of the World Protura by Szeptycki (2007), with few more recent updates.

At the genus or family level, Protura distribution from both the analyzed Regions can be classified as exclusive/endemic (Oriental or Australasian, respectively), Gondwanan/Pantropical and cosmopolitan; in addition, many taxa recorded in the Oriental Region have their main distribution in the Holarctic one (Table 1). At the species level, more than 80% endemics (even if a degree of caution is ever necessary due to the incompleteness of knowledge) can be detected (Table 1). Unfortunately, there are no data for the Wallacean islands. The faunas of the study Regions result to be quite well differentiated, and this seems also supported by the fact that only 4 species are shared (*Condeellum crucis*, *Australentulus noseki*, *Silvestridia keijiana* and *S. solomonis*).

Will further studies in the Indonesia islands lying in the *Wallacea* give a contribution to better delineate the boundaries between Oriental and Australasian Region, or will they create much more confusion?

Chorotype	Genus	Endemic species*
ORIENTAL REGION – Total number of species: 226 (81.9% endemics)		
Oriental	*Paracondeellum* Yin, Xie, Zhang, 1994	1
	Polyadenum Yin, 1980	1
	Zhongguohentomon Yin, 1979	2
	Neanisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984	3
Oriental + Holarctic	*Hesperentomon* Price, 1960	3
	Huhentomon Yin, 1977	1
	Neocondeellum Tuxen & Yin, 1982	3
	Neobaculentulus Yin, 1984	1
	Notentulus Yin, 1989	1
	Filientomon Rusek, 1974	
	Huashanentulus Yin, 1980	
	Tuxenentulus Imadaté, 1973	1
	Fujientomon Imadaté, 1964	1
	Sinentomon Yin, 1965	1
	Anisentomon Yin, 1977	4
	Paranisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984	3
	Pseudanisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984	16
	Antelientomon Yin, 1974	2
Gondwanan/ Pantropical	*Condeellum* Tuxen, 1963	3
	Australentulus Tuxen, 1967	5
	Bolivaridia Bonet, 1942	1
	Kenyentulus Tuxen, 1981	29
	Madagascaridia Nosek, 1978	1
	Silvestridia Bonet, 1942	
Cosmopolitan	*Protentomon* Ewing, 1921	
	Baculentulus Tuxen, 1977	12
	Berberentulus Tuxen, 1963	2
	Gracilentulus Tuxen, 1963	4
	Eosentomon Berlese, 1908	84
AUSTRALASIAN REGION – Total number of species: 41 (80.5% endemics)		
Australasian	*Tasmanentulus* Tuxen, 1984	2
Gondwanan/ Pantropical	*Condeellum* Tuxen, 1963	
	Amphientulus Tuxen, 1981	5
	Australentulus Tuxen, 1967	6
	Silvestridia Bonet, 1942	
	Isoentomon Tuxen, 1975	2
Cosmopolitan	*Acerentulus* Berlese, 1908	1
	Baculentulus Tuxen, 1977	1
	Berberentulus Tuxen, 1963	3
	Eosentomon Berlese, 1908	13

Table 1. Biogeographic classification of Protura families and genera recorded in the Oriental and Australasian Regions (* Nr of "endemic" species see text).