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?

ORIENTAL REGION – Total number of species: 226 (81.9% endemics) Paracondeellum Yin, Xie, Zhang, 1994 Polyadenum Yin, 1980 Zhongguohentomon Yin, 1979 Neanisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984 Hesperentomon Price, 1960 Huhentomon Yin, 1977 Neocondeellum Tuxen & Yin, 1982 Neobaculentulus Yin, 1982 Neocondeellum Tuxen & Yin, 1982 Neocondeellum Tuxen & Yin, 1984 Neocondeellum Tuxen (1973) Intentulus Yin, 1984 Hushanentulus Yin, 1980 Hushanentulus Imadaté, 1973 Intentulus Imadaté, 1964 Sinentomon Imadaté, 1964 Intentulus Imadaté, 1964 Intentulus Imadaté, 1964 Anisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984 Pseudanisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984 Apseudanisentomon Zhang & Yin, 1984 Anstralentulus Tuxen, 1963 Australentulus Tuxen, 1981 29 Madagascaridia Nosek, 1978 1 Silvestridia Bonet, 1942	Chorotype	Genus	Endemic species*	
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Condeellum Tuxen, 1963 3				
Australentulus Tuxen, 1967 5		-		
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Baculentulus Tuxen, 1977 1			2	
	Cosmopolitan		1	
		Baculentulus Tuxen, 1977	1	
Berberentutus Tuxen, 1903		Berberentulus Tuxen, 1963	3	
Eosentomon Berlese, 1908 13		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).