

A global overview of ostracods in plant held water bodies with the description of a new *Elpidium* species from Honduras

Merlijn JOCQUE, Ricardo PINTO & Koen MARTENS

Plant held water bodies (= Phytotelmata) such as tree holes, bromeliad tanks, pitcher plants and *Heliconia* florescences house unexpectedly diverse communities of aquatic invertebrates. Dispersal constraints associated with the small size and difficult accessibility of the water body itself result in the dominance of insects with an adult dispersal stage in these communities. Small Crustacea are found in these habitats but they often are ignored in surveys and information is scarce. Here, we compile an overview of freshwater Ostracoda in phytotelmata, synthesise information on dispersal strategies and describe a new species of *Elpidium* from bromeliads in a Honduran cloud forest. A literature search combined with unpublished information results in a list of slightly more than ten described ostracod species currently recorded from Phytotelmata. Many more are expected to be added to the list, especially in the genus *Elpidium*; the dominant phytotelm inhabiting ostracod group. Zoochory (Amphibians) and possibly active dispersal through water films seem to be the most important dispersal strategies. The relatively high diversity associated with its dispersal strategies makes the genus *Elpidium* an interesting model for ecological and evolutionary (speciation) studies.

Authors addresses:

Merlijn Jocque

Laboratory of Aquatic Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Ricardo Pinto

University of Brasília, Institute of Geosciences, CEP 70.910-900, Brasília DF, Brazil

Koen Martens

Freshwater Biology, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vautierstraat 29, 1000 Brussels, and University of Ghent, Biology, K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium

martens@naturalsciences.be