Quick guide to New Zealand freshwater Acari families

Prepared by Dean Olsen (2007)

Is the mite red/orange & large (>2 mm), & the coxae occupying not more than half of ventral surface?

- YES
- NO

Are the lateral eyes fused with medial eye plate?

- YES
- NO

Is the medial eye plate wider than long?

- YES
- NO

Are the lateral eyes fused with medial eye plate?

- YES
- NO

Are coxae I-IV fused?

- YES
- NO

Is coxa-I separate medially, & coxa-II divided into two portions?

- YES
- NO

Are claws present on the fourth leg?

- YES
- NO

Are the lateral eyes fused with medial eye plate?

- YES
- NO

Is the genital acetabula (cavity) partly or entirely covered by flaps?

- YES
- NO

Are claws present on the fourth leg?

- YES
- NO

Is the dorsum covered with numerous star-shaped sclerites?

- YES
- NO

Does the palpal tibia of palp-IV have a pair of enlarged setae?

- YES
- NO

Is the body laterally compressed, legs originating at front of body?

- YES
- NO

Continued overleaf

Hydrachnidae

Eylaidae

Limnocharidae

Hydrachnidae

Sperchontidae

Stygotoniidae

Ctenothyadidae

Zelandothyadidae

Hydryphantidae

Oxidae

Anisitsiellidae
Continued from previous page

Does the tarsus of leg-I have a single, proximally-directed claw?

NO

Does leg-IV lack claws?

YES

NO

Are the palps uncate (tarsus able to fold against tibia)?

YES

NO

Is the genital pore flanked by two plates bearing numerous acetabula?

YES

NO

Dorsal shield

or

Dorsal shield

YES

NO

Do palps-II & III have transparent plate-like ventral projections?

YES

NO

Do the pedal claws lack lobed ventral clawlets, (associated with sponges)?

YES

NO


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Water mite anatomy

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Limnesia zelandica, ventral view

Pedipalp (=palp)

Leg-I

Leg-II

Leg-III

Leg-IV

Coxae

Coxa-I

Coxa-II

Coxa-III

Coxa-IV

Genital acetabulum

Tarsal claws

Tarsus (P-V)

Tibia (P-IV)

Patella (P-III)

Femur (P-II)

Trochanter (P-I)

Palp

Claws

Tarsus

Metatarsus

Tibia

Patella

Femur

Trochanter

Leg