
Aquatic oligochaetes species from River Tigris Sediments / Iraq

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Abstract

Samples of aquatic oligochaetes were collected from sediments of 10 sites along the middle sector of River Tigris / Iraq for a period from November 2018 to December 2019. Species of tubificid worms (subfamily Tubificinae) were morphologically identified from a total collection of 7556 specimens, with *Limnodrilus* spp as the most abundant species (74% of the total individuals), especially *L. hoffmeisteri* Claparède,1862, and *L. clapedianus*, Ratzel,1868, in addition to individuals of *L. cervix* Brinkhurst, 1963 , and *L. udekemianus* Claparède 1862. Other tubificid worms, with hair chaetae were identified as *Aulodrilus pigueti* Kowalewski,1914; *Embolocephalus velutinus* (Grube, 1879) ; *Potamothrix bavaricus* (Öschmann, 1913) and *P. hammoniensis* Michaelsen 1910.; *Psammoryctides albicola* (Michaelsen, 1901); *P. barbatus* (Grube,1891); *P. moravicus* (Hrabě, 1934); and *Tubifex tubifex* (Müller, 1774).Two species of the subfamily Rhyacodrilinae, were also identified as *Branchiura sowerbyi* Beddard, 1892, and *Rhyacodrilus coccineus* (Vejddovský, 1875), and two species of the subfamily Naidinae, *Amphichaeta leydigii* Tauber, 1879, and *Slavina appendiculata* (d' Udekem, 1855), in addition to *Pristina sima* (Marcus, 1944) (subfamily Pristininae). *Hemifridericia* sp. (Nielsen & Christensen, 1959) of the family Enchytraeidae was recorded from one site only during November, and identified by conserved 18s rRNA encoding gene sequence. The query sequence was 96.13% identical to *Hemifridericia parva* Nielsen & Christensen, 1959.

Keywords: Aquatic Oligochaeta, tubificid worms, River Tigris, Iraq

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