A NEW SPECIES OF *CHAETOGAMMARUS* MARTYNOV, 1925 (AMPHIPODA) FROM MOROCCAN FRESH WATERS, INCLUDING NOTES ON THE MOROCCAN EPIGEAN GAMMARIDAE

BY

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper, a new species of the genus *Chaetogammarus* is described from Moroccan fresh waters, as *Chaetogammarus saisensis* sp. nov. This species inhabits a restricted area in the north-central and Rifian region of Morocco. Some remarks on its variability and ecology are given.

Information about the epigean fresh water Gammaridae of Morocco is also presented: seven species of *Gammarus* and two *Echinogammarus* are known with certainty from Morocco. A key to the Moroccan species of epigean Gammaridae is provided.

INTRODUCTION

Despite their great importance as principal secondary and tertiary producers in fresh water macrobenthic communities, both in a quantitative and a qualitative...
Fig. 1. Distribution of the various species of *Gammarus* and *Echinogammarus* in Morocco:

- **Gammarus gauthieri** Karaman, 1935; 
- **G. acalceolatus** Pinkster, 1971; 
- **G. rouxi** Pinkster & Goedmakers, 1975; 
- **G. microps** Pinkster & Goedmakers, 1975; 
- **G. maroccanus** Fadil & Dakki, 2001; 
- **G. marmouchensis** Fadil & Dakki, 2006; 
- **G. rifatensis** Fadil & Dakki, 2006; 
- **Echinogammarus oujdae** Fadil & Dakki, 2003.

sense, the gammaridean Amphipoda have only poorly been studied in Moroccan fresh waters.

The present paper, therefore, is a contribution to the knowledge of this interesting group. Many species of gammarids have been recorded from Morocco. The genus *Gammarus* includes the most dominant freshwater amphipods both by density and diversity: at least seven species have been reported, most of them being endemic (Fadil & Dakki, 2001).

*G. gauthieri* Karaman, 1935, is a common inhabitant of wells and rivers in the Middle Atlas, the Saiss plains, and upper Moulouya (fig. 1).

*G. acalceolatus* Pinkster, 1971, was found in the lake Aglmam Sidi Ali (Middle Atlas). The species has never been found again after its first discovery.

*G. microps* Pinkster & Goedmakers, 1975, has been found only in the cave Ikhfoouwane in the province of Taza.

*G. rouxi* Pinkster & Goedmakers, 1975, was found in some wells in the Middle Atlas and the Saiss plains.