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VARIATION IN THE NUMBER OF UNGUES IN *AMERONOTHRUS SCHNEIDERI* (OUDEMANS), AN ORIBATID MITE

by

F. E. BOELÉ and L. VAN DER HAMMEN

Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden

With 1 figure and 5 tables

ABSTRACT

In the present paper an analysis is made of the variation in the number of unguis in the claws of *Ameronothrus schneideri* (Oudemans), an Oribatid mite. This variation is attributable to the regression of the two lateral unguis which are completely suppressed in the course of evolution (they are either present or absent). The laws of this numerical evolution (it is a so-called vertitional evolution) appear to be statistical, and do not determine individual events precisely (as the laws of the particles in quantum mechanics). In a population, each of the claws has a probability of manifestation. The variation of this probability of manifestation shows a very interesting geographical pattern which is as yet difficult to explain. Various correlations of the evolutionary processes in the eight legs are studied, and suggestions are given for continued research.

INTRODUCTION

During his studies of the Oribatid mites of saline areas in the Dutch Wadden Sea and other parts of N.W. Europe, Mr. P. J. G. Polderman and his collaborators collected numerous specimens of *Ameronothrus schneideri* (Oudemans) at localities in Norway, Denmark, N.W. Germany, The Netherlands, France and Great Britain (cf. Polderman, 1974, 1975). Although the species was described as monodactyl (cf. Schubart, 1975), Polderman's specimens presented monodactyl, bidactyl, as well as tridactyl claws, even in one individual, a variation comparable to that studied by Grandjean (1961) and Lions (1964) in other species of Oribatid mites. A detailed analysis of the variation in the number of unguis was subsequently carried out by the first author, whilst the text of the present paper was composed by the second author. Anticipating the completion of the present paper, the second author mentioned some of the results in his paper on Numerical Changes and Evolution in Actinotrichid Mites (Van der Hammen, 1981)¹.

¹) The authors are grateful to Mr. P. J. G. Polderman (who discovered the variability of the number of unguis in *Ameronothrus schneideri*) for making available the material. They are also grateful to him for helping the first author during the initial phase of the analysis of the material.

In his monograph of the family Ameronothridae, Schubart (1975) mentioned nine *Ameronothrus* species, among which one species of uncertain identity, that was subsequently described by Weigmann & Schulte (1975). The geographical distribution of the species was thought to be holarctic, till Weigmann (1975) published data on the occurrence of the genus in South Africa. According to Schulte, Schuster & Schubart (1975), the species of Ameronothridae fall into four ecological groups: stenotopic inhabitants of the marine littoral, eurytopic inhabitants of the littoral, holeurytopic inhabitants of the littoral, and stenotopic inland species. All stenotopic species are confined to hard substrates. The eurytopic species predominate on rocky shores (either free from, or rich in sediments), or in the salt-marsh. The holeurytopic species are indifferent to substrates. In warmer climates, the eurytopic species tend to become stenotopic. *Ameronothrus schneideri* belongs to the second ecological group (eurytopic inhabitants of the littoral).

In the genus *Ameronothrus*, claws with three ungues are predominantly found in species living on hard substrates, claws with one ungues in species living on soft substrate, although there are some notable exceptions. *Ameronothrus schneideri*, in which the number of ungues varies from three to one, is found in vegetations on soft substrate, outside the dikes, which are regularly or sporadically inundated by sea-water or by brackish water of a salinity higher than 0.05%. According to Polderman (1974), the species is a characteristic element of two communities: the Puccinellietum maritimae (especially the lower part), and the Juncetum gerardii (outside the dikes). *Ameronothrus schneideri* is known from the Atlantic coasts of Europe (from Norway to South Portugal) and from Madeira (Schulte, 1975: 344-345). The type-specimen of *Ameronothrus schneideri* (in the Oudemans Collection, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden) originates from Borkum island, N.W. Germany (cf. Oudemans, 1903); all legs of this specimen are monodactyl.

According to Weigmann (1973: 358), *Ameronothrus schneideri* can support long periods of inundation; in submerged condition, it clings to objects with the help of its claws, and is even able to walk among the vegetation and on the substrate. In cultures, it has been observed to feed on filamentous algae and fungi (Luxton, 1966: 168).

Reproduction in *Ameronothrus schneideri* is bisexual. Males and females are found in variable numbers. The two sexes generally present slight differences in average measurements of body and legs (cf. Schubart, 1975).

A summary of previous investigations on the variation in numbers of ungues, in Oribatid mites, was published by Van der Hammen (1981). The following passages are quoted from his paper.

The ancestral claw of Actinotrichid mites (cf. Grandjean, 1939: 539-546) was tridactyl in all stases, as still found in Endeostigmata and Palaeosomata (*Aphelacarus acarinus* (Berlese)). In most Oribatid mites, the tridactyl claw has, however, been subject to regression, and has become monodactyl in all immature stases; in the adults the claws can be mono-, bi- or tridactyl. In the

course of evolution, monodactyly can arise by suppression of the two lateral unguis (*ol'* and *ol''*), homobidactyly by suppression of the central unguis (*oc*), heterobidactyly by suppression of one of the lateral unguis (*ol'* or *ol''*). (The symbolic signs ' and '' denote the elements of the anterior, respectively the posterior face of the legs).

Several cases of numerical regression of the claws have been investigated in detail. Grandjean (1939, 1961, 1965) studied the regression of the unguis of the claws in *Nothrus silvestris* Nicolet, an Oribatid mite of which the reproduction is parthenogenetic. He based his study on material from various parts of France, Switzerland and Italy. In the genus *Nothrus*, the lateral unguis can be subject to numerical regression. Adults of *Nothrus silvestris* are, generally, bidactyl (the unguis mostly found are *ol'* and *oc*; *ol'* is stronger than *ol''*); specimens with monodactyl and tridactyl claws are, however, also found (monodactyl claws are regularly found, the occurrence of tridactyl claws is rare, and appears to be restricted, in a specimen, to one leg at the utmost). The evolution of the unguis is vertitional¹⁾: regression manifests itself partly asymmetrical; in many cases different legs present different claws; the specimens of one population seldom belong to one claw-type. Bidactyly appears to be statistically predominant in wooded areas, monodactyly in open country. Statistically, the lateral unguis of legs I and II disappear before those of legs III and IV.

According to Grandjean (1965: 109), unguis *ol''* is stronger than *ol'* in the case of *Nothrus anauniensis* Canestrini & Fanzago (*ol'* is stronger in the case of *Nothrus silvestris*). In *Nothrus anauniensis*, specimens generally present tridactyl claws; bidactyl claws are, however, also found, whilst specimens with monodactyl claws are extremely rare.

Lions (1964: 41-65) studied the variation of the numbers of unguis in *Rhysotritia ardua* (C. L. Koch), an Oribatid mite. The reproduction of this species is probably also parthenogenetic. Lions based his investigations on material from three different biotopes in the surroundings of Aix-en-Provence, in France. *Rhysotritia ardua* is predominantly bidactyl at leg I and tridactyl at legs II-IV. Regression has, consequently, started at leg I. In bidactyl claws of this species, the unguis are mostly *ol''* and *oc*. Monodactyl claws are also found. Claw-types are, generally, distributed over the legs in a more or less asymmetrical and apparently irregular way; evidently the variations must be attributed to vertitional evolutions. Homonychia (the occurrence of one claw-type in all legs of a specimen; the term is introduced here on the analogy of heteronychia) appeared to be more common in specimens from the open country, heteronychia (the oc-

¹⁾ A vertition is a discontinuous individual variation of presence-absence, pertaining to an idionymous organ observed in specimens of the same species, at the same stage, provided that this variation is fundamentally unilateral, and has an evolutionary significance. Generally, vertitions are repeated in part of the offspring; they are not immediately hereditary (in the offspring they have a certain probability of manifestation). Vertitions are probably the result of gene regulation. (The laws of this type of evolution are similar to those of the particles in quantum mechanics.) References to the literature on the subject are given by Van der Hammen (1980: 167).

currence of various claw-types in the legs of one specimen) appeared to be more common in shaded country. The order of regression, in the legs, presented differences of a very complex nature.

Matsakis (1967) made a mathematical analysis of the data collected by Lions. He discovered the existence of distinct, although very complicated connections between the variations; a number of elementary processes appeared to have acted together and in superposition. Statistically, *ol''* appeared to be stronger than *ol'*; there was, however, also a double priority because the lateral ungues of legs II and III were statistically stronger than those of legs I and IV. Matsakis discovered also the presence of a certain balance (association of opposite and mutually compensatory variations) between *ol'* and *ol''* in neighbouring symmetrical or adjacent legs. Evidently, we are dealing here with the effects of a balanced distribution of some regulatory material, present in a restricted quantity.

MATERIAL

As mentioned above, the material on which the present study is based was collected (by extraction from samples taken from the soil, 10 cm in diameter, to a depth of 5 cm, including the vegetation) in Norway, Denmark, N.W. Germany, The Netherlands, France and Great Britain. Data with reference to stations and samples are given in table 1. The numbers of the stations are indicated on the map of fig. 1. The distribution of these localities is partly determined by the distribution of salt-marshes. The occurrence of important gaps is, however, also connected with the incidental character of the collecting done in Norway, France and Great Britain. All the material analysed for the present study (with the exception of a few specimens that got lost) is in the collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

The ecological data mentioned in table 1, include either references to the plant-communities (Puccinellietum maritimae, Juncetum gerardii, Artemisietum maritimae; nomenclature according to Westhoff & Den Held, 1969) or references to the species of plants present in the samples (in some cases, data were lacking, or were restricted to other information). The following names of plants are included in the table. Higher plants: *Agrostis stolonifera* L., *Armeria maritima* (Mill.) Wildl., *Aster tripolium* L., *Cochlearia anglica* L., *Elytrigia pungens* (Pers.) Tutin, *Epilobium parviflorum* Schreb., *Festuca rubra* L., *Glaux maritima* L., *Halimione portulacoides* (L.) Aellen, *Juncus gerardii* Loisl., *Juncus maritimus* Lamk., *Limonium vulgare* Mill., *Plantago maritima* L., *Puccinellia maritima* (Huds.) Parl., *Salicornia europaea* L., *Solanum dulcamara* L., *Spergularia marina* (L.) Griseb., *Spergularia media* (L.) C. Presl., *Spergularia* spec., *Suaeda maritima* (L.) Dum., *Suaeda* spec., *Triglochin maritima* L. Mosses: *Funaria hygrometrica* Hedw. Chlorophyceae: *Rhizoclonium riparium* (Roth) Harv. Rhodophyceae: *Bostrychia scorpioides* (Huds.) Mont., *Catenella* spec.

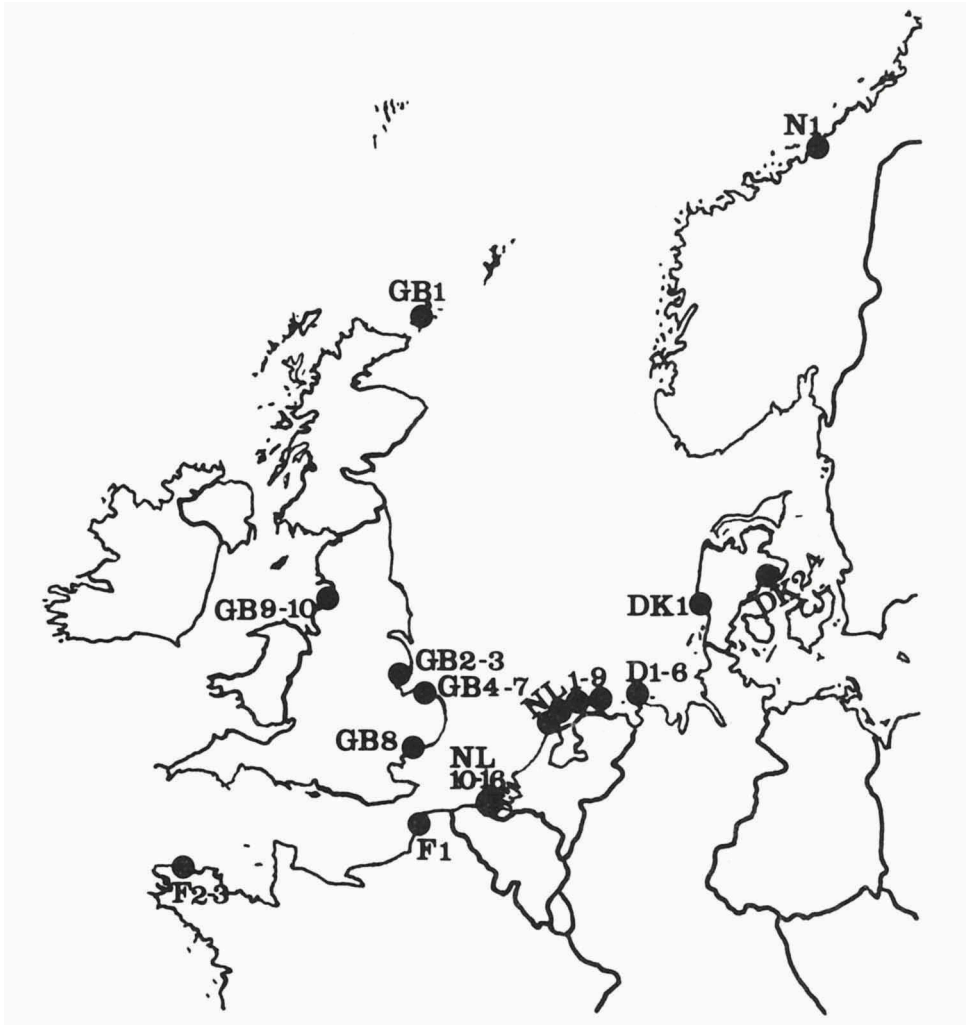


Fig. 1. Sketch-map of N.W. Europe, showing the localities (with station-numbers) in which material of *Ameronothrus schneideri* (Oudemans) was collected.

RESULTS

In the 89 samples listed in table 1, a total number of 838 adults of *Ameronothrus schneideri* was found (38 from Norway, 317 from Denmark, 78 from Germany, 243 from The Netherlands, 108 from France, and 54 from Great Britain). In these specimens, a total number of 6704 claws was investigated, and the variability was represented by using the following symbols, introduced by Lions (1964): T = tridactyl claw, consisting of the central unguis *oc*, the anterior lateral unguis *ol'*, and the posterior lateral unguis *ol''*; B' = bidactyl claw, consisting of

oc and *ol'*; B'' = bidactyl claw, consisting of *oc* and *ol''*; M = monodactyl claw, consisting of *oc*. The eight legs were represented by the usual symbols: Il = left leg I; Ir = right leg I; etc. The complete results are represented in table 2.

DISCUSSION

At first sight, the most conspicuous character of table 2 seems to be constituted by the chaotic distribution of claw-types in the material. All claw-types (T, B', B'', M) can be found in one population, as well as simultaneously in one specimen; in a population, each of the legs can present all claw-types. On closer examination the variation appears, however, to present statistical regularities which form part of the vertitional, regressive evolution of the two lateral claws (*ol'* and *ol''*). The regression evidently takes place by complete suppression: each of the lateral claws is either present or absent (without transition). The suppression forms part of an evolutionary tendency in the genus *Ameronothrus*, directed towards the development of species which are completely monodactyl at the adult level.

A few remarks must be made here, before we can enter on a further discussion of the results. From a first study of the material, it has appeared that there is no connection between claw-type and sex, no linear connection between claw-type and leg-number, and no connection between claw-type and biotope. Anomalous claws appeared to be very rare; the single anomaly observed, referred to a lateral unguis (in a bidactyl specimen) which was too small.

One of the first things observed, after a closer investigation of the results of table 2, is the statistical occurrence of a certain geographical variation. In table 3, the numbers for the claw-types (T, B', B'', M) are arranged according to geographical region, and according to separate legs. It appears that the number of tridactyl legs is relatively high in material from Norway (48.4%); this number decreases progressively along the coasts in southern direction: W. Denmark, 23%; E. Denmark, 8.3%; N.W. Germany, 1.4%; N. Netherlands, 1.2%; S. Netherlands, 0.3%; N. France, 0%. At the same time the number of monodactyl legs increase from 16.8% in Norway, to 98% in N. France. (In the complete material, 13% of the legs present tridactyl claws, 71.4% of the legs monodactyl claws). South of the Strait of Dover, the number of tridactyl claws is again considerably higher (Brittanny, 69.5%). On a smaller scale, the same variation is found in material from Great Britain, although the number of specimens in our collection is too small for a definite conclusion; there appeared to be a decrease in the number of tridactyl specimens from Orkney to The Wash (Lincolnshire, Norfolk) and to the Lancashire coast, and an increase further southward, on the Essex coast.

It stands to reason that, in a detailed analysis of the vertitional regression of the claws, both unguis (*ol'* and *ol''*) have to be studied separately. In table 3, the average presence of *ol'* and *ol''* is given for each geographical region, expressed in values ranging from 1.0 (absolute presence) to 0 (absolute absence). (The

value for ol' is computed by dividing the sum of T and B' by the total number of legs; the value for ol'' is computed by dividing the sum of T and B'' by the total number of legs). Table 3 demonstrates that the presence of ol' decreases, from Norway to N. France, from 0.71 to 0.01, and suddenly increases in the material from Brittany (0.86); the values for ol'' are respectively 0.61, 0.01 and 0.77. (Evidently, ol' is stronger than ol'' ; it offers more resistance to regression). Similar values are found in the material from Great Britain.

In table 4, the total number of the four claw-types, and the presence of the two lateral ungues, are given for each of the eight legs and for each of the four pairs of legs. This table demonstrates again that ol' is stronger than ol'' . Table 4 demonstrates also that, statistically, there is little difference between the presence of ol' and ol'' on the left and on the right side. The presence of ol' is lowest in the case of leg II (the presence increases in, respectively, legs I, III, and IV); the presence of ol'' is lowest in the case of leg I (the presence increases in, respectively, legs II, III, and IV). The position of the claw with reference to the plane of symmetry of the body, i.e. either paraxial (ol' in the case of legs I and II, ol'' in the case of legs III and IV) or anti-axial (ol'' in the case of legs I and II, ol' in the case of legs III and IV), evidently has no influence on the regressive evolution.

The presence of homonychia (i.e. the occurrence of one claw-type in all legs of one specimen) has been computed in table 5. The presence of homonychous tridactyl specimens (representing the starting-point of the regressive evolution) decreases from 0.13 in Norway to 0 in N.W. Germany, The Netherlands and N. France, and subsequently increases to 0.19 in Brittany. The presence of homonychous monodactyl specimens (representing the final stage in the regressive evolution) increases from 0 in Norway to 0.87 in N. France, and subsequently decreases to 0 in Brittany. Similar data, although on a much smaller scale, are obtained from the material collected in Great Britain.

Among the total number of specimens, 2.6% appears to present tridactyl homonychia, 45.2% monodactyl homonychia. Bidactyl homonychia (B' or B'') has not been found; both bidactyl claw-types represent a transitional stage in the regression from tridactyl to monodactyl claws; apparently, these transitional stages are hardly ever attained by all legs at the same time.

A detailed comparative study of table 2 suggests that there could be a certain balance between ol' and ol'' in the manifestation of regression in the eight legs, i.e. an association of opposite and mutually compensatory variations, in neighbouring symmetrical or adjacent legs. An analysis, similar to that executed by Matsakis (1967), is required to confirm this first impression.

The geographical variation in presence of ol' and ol'' is difficult to explain. Apparently, an unknown external factor has influenced the regressive evolution, southward along the coast, as far as the Strait of Dover. The different grades along the coast could be connected, in some way, with differences in evolutionary time and changes in the North Sea at the end of the Pleistocene. Although the material collected in Great Britain is numerically too small to arrive at a more definite conclusion, the general pattern agrees with the results

from other parts of N.W. Europe; the increase in number of tridactyl claws, however, has apparently already started on the Essex coast.

Evidently, the present investigation is but a first orientation, and should be repeated on a much larger scale. Additional material should, in the first place, be collected along the Norwegian coast, in the neighbourhood of the Strait of Dover, and along the Atlantic coast of France and Portugal. Besides that, material should be studied, collected along the Baltic and Irish coasts. A much more numerous material from Great Britain will also be required for a better understanding of the variation.

It will certainly be interesting to study also the occurrence of vertitions (certainly rare) in other *Ameronothrus* species: the vertitional absence of lateral claws in predominantly tridactyl species, and the vertitional presence in predominantly monodactyl species. Schubart (1975) recorded the occurrence of one bidactyl claw in a specimen of *Ameronothrus lineatus* (Thorell), a predominantly tridactyl species.

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TABLE 1. Stations and samples				TABLE 1. Stations and samples (continued)							
Country	Sta- tion	Locality	Date	Sample	Ecological data	Country	Sta- tion	Locality	Date	Sample	Ecological data
Norway	M1	Stjernerfjord	17.8.73	X756 X757 X758	Junctus gerardii Junctus gerardii Junctus gerardii	The Netherlands (continued)	ML5 ML6	Vlieland, "Poetshuis" Vlieland, "Westerveld"	5.8.72 6.7.71	X431 X580	Puccinellietum maritimes Puccinellia maritima
	DK1	Skallingen	28.4.72	X759 787	Junctus gerardii Halimione portulacoides, Puccinellia maritima		ML7	Texel, "de Bendorcht"	13.4.71	X559	Puccinellia maritima
	DK2	Kalø	17.4.72	792 800	Junctus gerardii Junctus gerardii				14.6.71	X560 X561	Puccinellia maritima Halimione portulacoides
	DK3	Hestehave	10.4.72	794	Junctus gerardii				1.8.72	X565	Puccinellia maritima
	DK4	Kysingfjord, Norsminde	20.4.72	X501 791	Puccinellietum maritima Puccinellietum maritima		ML8	Texel, "Mokbaai"	23.8.71	X564	Puccinellia maritima
Germany	D1	Langeoog, "Oosterkwelder"	1.5.75	797 798 978	Artemisietum maritima Puccinellietum maritima Puccinellia maritima; Halimione portulacoides, Bostrychia scorpioides				8.11.71	X566 X569	Junctus gerardii Puccinellia maritima
	D2	Langeoog, "Westerdich"	1.5.75	975	Puccinellia maritima, Aster tripolium				X570		Festuca rubra, Junctus gerardii
	D3	Halltrum	30.4.75	964	Salicornia europaea, Puccinellia maritima				4.1.74	X777	Junctus gerardii
	D4	Norderney, airport	29.4.75	953	Salicornia europaea, Puccinellia maritima		ML9	Balgand	5.1.72	X583	Junctus maritimus Puccinellia maritima
	D5	Norderney, harbour	6.8.74	60	Festuca rubra		ML10	Goerse, "Springerogere"	9.11.72	X504	former creek
The Netherlands	ML1	Schiermonnikoog, E. of ferry-harbour	5.8.74	X922	Puccinellia maritima, Salicornia europaea				X505		Suaeda maritima, Halimione portulacoides
	ML2	Aasland, "de Grieten"	30.1.74	1788	Puccinellia maritima, Puccinellia maritima, Limonium vulgare				X506		Festuca rubra, moss
	ML3	Terschelling, "Deelwal"	28.6.72	X516	Salicornia europaea, Puccinellia maritima, Limonium vulgare				14.3.73	X656	Festuca rubra, Spergularia spec.
	ML4	Terschelling, "de Kom"	21.7.72	X430	Puccinellia maritima, Catenella spec.				X657		Suaeda spec., Puccinellia maritima
			31.10.72	X481	Catenella spec.				X665		Puccinellia maritima
			X482						X720		Puccinellia maritima, Limonium vulgare, Glaux maritima, Spergularia maritima, Fuaria hygonstrica
			X483						X723		Suaeda maritima, Solanum dulcamara
									15.6.74	X488	Puccinellia maritima, Aster tripolium, Sporobolus parviflorus
									X622		Festuca rubra, Limonium vulgare
							ML11	Schouwen, Oosterland	25.8.72	X439	Puccinellietum maritima

TABLE 1. Stations and samples (continued)			TABLE 1. Stations and samples (continued)		
Country	Station	Ecological data	Country	Station	Ecological data
The Netherlands (continued)	ML12 St. Philipsland	Limonium vulgare, Aster tripolium, Elytrigia pungens	France (continued)	X1095	Puccinellia maritima, Spergularia sedia, Agrostis stolonifera, Halimolobos portulacoides
	ML13 M. Beveland, "e-Gravenboek"	Puccinellia maritima, Triglochia maritima, Aster tripolium		X1096	Salicornia europaea, Puccinellia maritima
	ML14 "de Brakman", E. of Biersvelot	Puccinellia maritima		X1097	Puccinellia maritima, Halimolobos portulacoides, Asteria maritima, Cochlearia anglica
	ML15 Cadzand, "Warte polder"	Salicornia europaea, Puccinellia maritima, Glaux maritima, Spergularia spec., Suaeda maritima, Limonium vulgare		X1098	Cochlearia anglica Puccinellia maritima, Triglochia maritima
				X1099	Puccinellia maritima
			X1100	Halimolobos portulacoides	
			X1101	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1102	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1103	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1104	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1105	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1106	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1107	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1108	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1109	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1110	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1111	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1112	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1113	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1114	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1115	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1116	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1117	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1118	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1119	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1120	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1121	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1122	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1123	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1124	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1125	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1126	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1127	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1128	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1129	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1130	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1131	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1132	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1133	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1134	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1135	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1136	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1137	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1138	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1139	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1140	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1141	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1142	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1143	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1144	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1145	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1146	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1147	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1148	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1149	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1150	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1151	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1152	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1153	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1154	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1155	Puccinellia maritima	
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			X1157	Puccinellia maritima	
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			X1161	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1162	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1163	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1164	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1165	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1166	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1167	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1168	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1169	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1170	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1171	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1172	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1173	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1174	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1175	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1176	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1177	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1178	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1179	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1180	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1181	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1182	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1183	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1184	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1185	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1186	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1187	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1188	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1189	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1190	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1191	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1192	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1193	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1194	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1195	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1196	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1197	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1198	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1199	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1200	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1201	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1202	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1203	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1204	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1205	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1206	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1207	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1208	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1209	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1210	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1211	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1212	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1213	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1214	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1215	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1216	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1217	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1218	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1219	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1220	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1221	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1222	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1223	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1224	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1225	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1226	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1227	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1228	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1229	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1230	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1231	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1232	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1233	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1234	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1235	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1236	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1237	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1238	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1239	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1240	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1241	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1242	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1243	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1244	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1245	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1246	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1247	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1248	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1249	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1250	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1251	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1252	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1253	Puccinellia maritima	
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			X1260	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1261	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1262	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1263	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1264	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1265	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1266	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1267	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1268	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1269	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1270	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1271	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1272	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1273	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1274	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1275	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1276	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1277	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1278	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1279	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1280	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1281	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1282	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1283	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1284	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1285	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1286	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1287	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1288	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1289	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1290	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1291	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1292	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1293	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1294	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1295	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1296	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1297	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1298	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1299	Puccinellia maritima	
			X1300	Puccinellia maritima	

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material (continued)

Table with columns: Station Sample, Ir, III, IIR, IIIR, IIIV, Station Sample, Ir, III, IIR, IIIR, IIIV. Rows include samples 791-796 and 975-978, with various alphanumeric codes representing claw types.

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material (continued)

Table with columns: Station Sample, Ir, III, IIR, IIIR, IIIV, Station Sample, Ir, III, IIR, IIIR, IIIV. Rows include samples 798-978, with various alphanumeric codes representing claw types.

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material (continued)

Table with columns: Station Sample, Ir, III, IIR, IIIR, IIIV, Station Sample, Ir, III, IIR, IIIR, IIIV. Rows include samples 797-798, with various alphanumeric codes representing claw types.

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material

(continued) Station Sample II Ir III Iir IIII IIIr IVr Station Sample II Ir III Iir IIII IIIr IVr

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material

(continued) Station Sample II Ir III Iir IIII IIIr IVr Station Sample II Ir III Iir IIII IIIr IVr

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material

(continued) Station Sample II Ir III Iir IIII IIIr IVr Station Sample II Ir III Iir IIII IIIr IVr

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material (continued)

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material (continued)

TABLE 2. Distribution of claw-types in the material (continued)

Table with 12 columns: Station Sample, II, III, IIIr, IIII, IIIIr, IVI, IVr. It contains multiple rows of data for various station samples including X454, X1092, X1093, X1094, X1095, X1096, X1097, X1098, X1099, X1100, X1101, X766, and 912. Each row lists combinations of letters M, B, and B'' across the columns.

TABLE 3. Claw-types, individual legs and geographical distribution (continued)

Stations	Number of samples	Number of specimens	T	B'	B"	M	Average presence		Total			
							ol'	ol"				
B1-6	8	78	1	9	4	4	64	0.13	0.06	II		
			2	4	4	4	68	0.08	0.08	Ir		
			1	6	2	69	0.07	0.04	III			
			0	4	3	71	0.05	0.04	IIr			
			3	1	7	67	0.05	0.13	IIII			
			0	8	2	68	0.10	0.03	IIIIr			
			1	3	6	68	0.05	0.09	IVI			
			1	7	1	69	0.10	0.03	IVr			
			9	42	29	544	0.08	0.06	Total			
			B11-9	19	74	1	5	1	67	0.08	0.03	II
						1	4	2	67	0.07	0.04	Ir
						2	1	1	70	0.04	0.04	III
						0	4	0	70	0.05	0.00	IIr
						0	6	4	64	0.00	0.05	IIII
1	7	2				64	0.11	0.04	IIIIr			
0	7	1				66	0.09	0.01	IVI			
2	4	0				68	0.08	0.03	IVr			
7	38	11				536	0.08	0.03	Total			
B110-16	22	169				0	7	7	155	0.04	0.04	II
						0	4	3	162	0.02	0.02	Ir
						0	4	5	160	0.02	0.03	III
						0	4	2	163	0.02	0.01	IIr
						3	7	2	157	0.06	0.03	IIII
			0	8	5	156	0.05	0.03	IIIIr			
			0	7	5	157	0.04	0.03	IVI			
			1	4	2	162	0.03	0.02	IVr			
			4	45	31	1272	0.04	0.03	Total			
			DK1	3	32	3	6	3	20	0.28	0.19	II
						7	6	2	17	0.40	0.28	Ir
						7	3	2	20	0.31	0.28	III
						7	3	1	21	0.31	0.25	IIr
						8	4	3	17	0.36	0.34	IIII
11	4	1				16	0.47	0.38	IIIIr			
10	4	1				17	0.44	0.34	IVI			
6	6	3				17	0.38	0.28	IVr			
59	36	16				145	0.37	0.29	Total			
DK2-4	6	285				15	44	19	207	0.21	0.12	II
						14	50	17	204	0.22	0.11	Ir
						23	41	22	199	0.22	0.16	III
						22	30	25	208	0.18	0.16	IIr
						34	32	22	197	0.23	0.20	IIII
			26	40	25	196	0.23	0.17	IIIIr			
			28	39	28	190	0.24	0.20	IVI			
			28	42	22	193	0.25	0.18	IVr			
			190	318	178	1594	0.22	0.16	Total			

TABLE 3. Claw-types, individual legs and geographical distribution (Continued)									
Stations	Number of samples	T	B'	B''	M	Average Presence		Legs	
						ol'	ol''	ol'	ol''
F1	1	31	0	0	0	31	0.00	0.00	Il
			0	2	1	28	0.06	0.03	Ir
			0	0	31	0.00	0.00	0.00	III
			0	0	0	31	0.00	0.00	IIr
			0	0	0	31	0.00	0.00	IIII
			0	1	0	30	0.03	0.00	IIIr
			0	0	0	31	0.00	0.00	IVI
			0	0	1	30	0.00	0.03	IVr
			0	3	2	243	0.01	0.01	Total
F2-3	11	77	39	24	4	10	0.82	0.56	Il
			39	25	5	8	0.82	0.57	Ir
			57	4	10	6	0.80	0.87	III
			57	10	4	6	0.87	0.80	IIr
			54	12	7	4	0.84	0.80	IIII
			55	12	5	5	0.87	0.78	IIIr
			58	10	8	1	0.88	0.86	IVI
			69	4	1	3	0.95	0.90	IVr
			428	101	44	43	0.86	0.77	Total
GB1	1	6	0	1	0	5	0.17	0.00	Il
			0	0	2	4	0.00	0.33	Ir
			1	2	0	3	0.50	0.17	III
			0	1	0	5	0.17	0.00	IIr
			1	2	0	3	0.50	0.17	IIII
			0	2	2	2	0.33	0.35	IIIr
			2	0	2	2	0.33	0.67	IVI
			1	1	2	2	0.33	0.50	IVr
			5	9	8	26	0.29	0.27	Total
GB2-7	11	34	0	1	1	32	0.03	0.03	Il
			0	2	2	30	0.06	0.06	Ir
			1	0	0	33	0.03	0.03	III
			0	0	2	32	0.00	0.06	IIr
			0	2	2	30	0.06	0.06	IIII
			1	1	0	32	0.06	0.03	IIIr
			0	0	1	33	0.00	0.03	IVI
			1	0	1	32	0.03	0.06	IVr
			3	6	9	254	0.03	0.04	Total
GB8	1	4	2	2	0	0	1.00	0.50	Il
			3	0	0	1	0.75	0.75	Ir
			2	0	1	1	0.50	0.75	III
			2	1	0	1	0.75	0.50	IIr
			3	0	1	0	0.75	1.00	IIII
			2	2	0	0	1.00	0.50	IIIr
			2	1	1	0	0.75	0.75	IVI
			3	0	1	0	0.75	1.00	IVr
			19	6	4	3	0.80	0.72	Total
GB9-10	2	10	0	0	0	10	0.00	0.00	Il
			0	1	0	9	0.10	0.00	Ir
			0	0	0	10	0.00	0.00	III
			0	0	0	10	0.00	0.00	IIr
			0	1	0	9	0.10	0.00	IIII
			0	1	0	9	0.10	0.00	IIIr
			0	1	0	8	0.10	0.00	IVI
			0	2	0	8	0.20	0.00	IVr
			0	6	1	73	0.08	0.01	Total

TABLE 4. Total numbers of the four claw-types and of the two lateral claws for each of the eight legs and for each of the four pairs

	T	B'	B''	M	ol'	ol''
Il	70	114	40	614	184	110
Ir	77	113	41	607	190	118
III	112	66	50	610	178	162
IIr	105	66	43	624	171	148
IIII	127	73	54	584	200	181
IIIr	117	94	46	581	211	163
IVl	123	77	62	576	200	183
IVr	139	75	36	588	214	175
Total	870	678	372	4784	1548	1242
I	147	227	81	1221	374	228
II	217	132	93	1234	349	310
III	244	167	100	1165	411	344
IV	262	152	98	1164	414	360

Total number of specimens 838
 Total number of legs 6704

TABLE 5. Homonychia

Stations	Number of specimens	Homonychia and ratio of occurrence	
		T	M
M1	38	5 (0.13)	0
DK1	32	1 (0.03)	11 (0.34)
DE2-4	285	0	83 (0.29)
D1-6	78	0	51 (0.65)
NL1-9	74	0	50 (0.65)
NL10-16	169	0	126 (0.75)
F1	31	0	27 (0.87)
F2-3	77	15 (0.19)	0
GB1	6	0	0
GB2-7	34	0	24 (0.71)
GB8	4	1 (0.25)	0
GB9-10	10	0	7 (0.70)