

# Branchiobdellida (Annelida: Clitellata) Found in the Crayfish and Annelid Collections of the French National Museum of Natural History (Paris), and on Recently Collected Crayfishes from France

*Mitko A. Subchev*

Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Blvd. Tzar Osvoboditel 1, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria;  
e-mail: subchev@zoology.bas.bg

**Abstract:** Thirty one samples from the Zoothece collection in the French National Museum of Natural History in Paris consisting of 71 crayfishes were checked for branchiobdellidans (crayfish worms). As a result 79 crayfish worms from 11 of the samples were found, separated and identified. The identified worms included three European species: *Branchiobdella astaci* ODIER, 1823, *Branchiobdella parasita* HENLE, 1835 and *Branchiobdella hexodonta* GRUBER, 1882. These species were found on crayfishes collected in France (*B. astaci*), Greece (*B. parasita*, *B. hexodonta*), Montenegro (*B. astaci*) and Ukraine (*B. astaci*). The Asian species, *Branchiobdella kobayashi* YAMAGUCHI, 1934 was found in the gills of *Cambaroides dauricus* (PALLAS, 1773) from Amur, Russia. In addition 11 samples with a total of 19 crayfishes collected by Mr. Pierre Noel from France, and six samples with a total of 41 crayfishes sent by Mr. P. Gotteland and two samples of a total of five crayfishes sent by Mr. Th. Duperray also from France were checked for epibionts. As a result *B. astaci* was found in two of the samples and *B. hexodonta*, a new record for this country, was found in one of the samples. *Xironogiton victoriensis* GELDER AND HALL, 1990 was found in a sample of *Pacifastacus leniusculus* (DANA, 1852). The identification of *Branchiobdella* specimens on four prepared slides in the Museum's collection was checked and the misidentified specimens were labelled correctly.

**Key words:** *Branchiobdella*, crayfishes, crayfish epibionts