Contribution to the knowledge of the groundwater communities from northern Morocco

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The groundwater fauna from the Rif region, in northern Morocco, is highly diversified. Several stygobite taxa are new for science: oligochaetes (species of Trichodrilus, genus and species of Phallodrilinae), gastropods (new species of Hadziella, Heideella, Pseudoislamia and Belgrandia), amphipods (ten new species of Pseudoniphargus), and isopods (Microcharon alamiae has been recently described). Some taxa are reported for the first time from Morocco, i.e. the oligochaetes Phallodrilinae, as well as the crustacean Metastenasellus sp. (isopod). As in other Moroccan regions already investigated, the distribution of groundwater communities, especially peracarid crustaceans, is strongly related to water quality, substrate grain size and the local palaeogeography. The latter factor provides an understanding of the observed community differences both between sites and with other Moroccan regions.