

Focus on the mucro

Collembola are small hexapods living in many different habitats (see Legends). The species presented in this document belong to the family Sminthurididae and the order Symphypleona. Modern macro-photographic material makes it possible to produce images showing anatomical details for their identification. The specimens of this document have been photographed in their biotopes in France.

The mucro is the claw-like apical part of the 2 arms (dentes) of the ventral fork (furca) that can be seen in lateral view underneath the abdomen. The shape of the mucro and the presence of longitudinal lamellae can help in the identification of the species. The mucro can be spoonshaped, narrow, and/or pointed.



Legends

- soil, terrestrial, sand
- litter, dead leaves, mosses
- aquatic area, ponds, rivers
- size of adult females (mm)



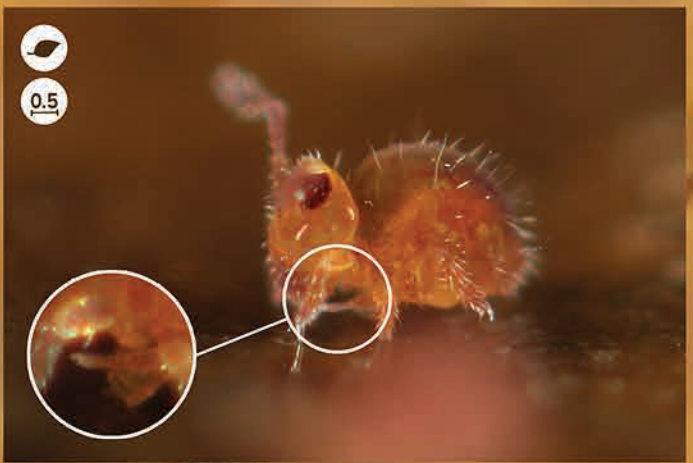
Sphaeridia pumilis juvenile ♀ - Mucro without lamellae



Sminthurides aquaticus ♀ - Mucro with lamellae



Sminthurides malmgreni ♀ - Mucro with lamellae



Sminthurides parvulus subadult ♀ - Mucro gutter-like



Sminthurides penicillifer ssp. *bifidus* ♀
Mucro with shortened outer lamella



Sminthurides schoetti ♀ - Mucro with apical constriction (*)



Sminthurides sexoculatus subadult ♀ - Pointed mucro



Sminthurides signatus subadult ♀ - Mucro with 3 lamellae



Stenacidia violaceae ♀ - Mucro narrow slender; anterior lamella missing