

Thinozercon Shore Search Record

One record per shore or habitat patch. Record what is there, whether or not anything is found.



1 Where and when

Site name GPS or grid ref

Date Time Observer(s)

Patch size or boundaries

Position on shore

☐ lower shore ☐ middle shore

☐ upper shore ☐ strandline or splash zone

☐ uncertain

Tide state during search

☐ falling ☐ near low water

☐ rising ☐ uncertain

Setting

☐ open coast ☐ bay ☐ estuary

☐ creek or pill ☐ lagoon or sea lough

☐ other

2 What was the habitat like?

Surface and substrate (tick everything present)

☐ bedrock ☐ boulders ☐ cobbles ☐ pebbles ☐ gravel ☐ sand ☐ sandy mud ☐ mud ☐ wrack or tidal debris

☐ vegetation or algae ☐ other

Stones, if present

☐ mostly loose on the surface ☐ mostly partly embedded

☐ mostly deeply embedded ☐ mixed ☐ not applicable

Sediment directly beneath representative stones

☐ none ☐ sand ☐ sandy mud ☐ mud ☐ mixed

☐ not checked

Conditions beneath stones

☐ dry ☐ damp ☐ very wet ☐ submerged ☐ mixed

☐ not checked

Hollow or air space beneath stones

☐ common ☐ occasional ☐ not noticed ☐ not checked

Wrack or tidal debris, if present

☐ fresh ☐ mixed ☐ old or decomposing ☐ not sure

Lying on

Describe the patch in your own words

3 What was around?

Broad groups only, no microscope needed. Nothing here proves the habitat is right; it is context.

☐ mites

☐ springtails

☐ amphipods or sandhoppers

☐ worms

☐ tortoise shaped mites

☐ flies or fly larvae

☐ beetles

☐ small crustaceans

☐ fast running mites

☐ red mites

☐ molluscs

☐ other

Mites seen: ☐ none noticed ☐ a few ☐ many ☐ not specifically looked for

Anything especially abundant?

Anything photographed for later identification?

4 What did you actually search?

Checked: ☐ undersides of stones ☐ sediment beneath stones ☐ rock crevices ☐ wrack or tidal debris ☐ strandline material

☐ other

Time spent searching min Area searched

Approximate stones checked: ☐ 0 ☐ 1 to 10 ☐ 11 to 25 ☐ 26 to 50 ☐ more than 50 *Replace lifted stones as found.*

5 Photograph the habitat

If possible, photograph the whole shore, the patch searched, the substrate close up, and the underside of a representative stone or the debris searched.

Whole shore Patch

Substrate Microhabitat

Other

6 Anything worth documenting?

Mite or other organism worth documenting? ☐ no ☐ yes

What caught your attention?

Photo reference

Specimen reference, if applicable

Exactly where was it?

7 Notes, sketch, access details, unusual conditions, or anything the boxes missed

Shore Search Record: reference page

Optional. Read before you go, or keep with the record for later. The record on the other side stands on its own.

What the papers say about where it lived

Halbert 1915, Westport (the first find). “Found in some numbers under stones on the sea-shore at Westport, County Mayo, in July.” Of the maritime mites generally: “the more truly maritime forms are found well below high-tide mark where they survive continual immersion by the sea. During the tides they retire into minute crevices in the rocks, or under stones partly embedded in sandy mud where small quantities of air are imprisoned.” *Proc. R. Ir. Acad.* 31(39): 47–48, 82.

Halbert 1915, Howth. “I have also found both sexes in a similar habitat, between tide-marks on the south shore of Howth, County Dublin, in the month of April.” p. 82.

Pugh, King & Fordy 1987, Milford Haven (the last record). “from tidal debris and under stones in the upper littoral and supralittoral zones at Beggar’s Reach and Castle Reach, Milford Haven, Dyfed.” *J. Zool.* 211: 107–108.

Athias-Binche 1982. Treated the microhabitat as specialised: “adaptations for life under stones embedded in muddy sand and flooded by the tides”, “a permanent rather than a transient habitat”. Later collecting at Howth by Athias-Binche and G. O. Evans found none. *Proc. R. Ir. Acad.* 82B: 261–276.

Read together these are broad and partly contradictory: low shore stones in mud (Halbert), upper shore and splash zone debris and stones (Pugh). That is why the record asks what was actually there rather than whether it matched.

Companion mites named in the papers, for later identification

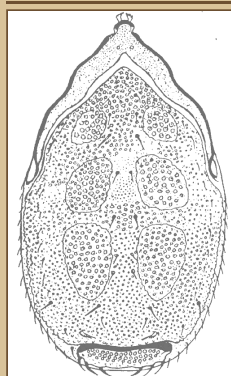
These need a microscope and are for the lab, not the shore. Names as printed in the sources; several have modern synonyms.

Halbert 1915, low shore company: *Hydrogamasus giardi*, *Cyrtodrolaelaps hirtus*, *Halolaelaps glabriusculus*, *Gamasus* (*Vulgarogamasus*) *trouessarti*, *Pachylaelaps littoralis*, *Phaulocylliba berlesii*, *Bdella decipiens*, *B. capillata*, *Rhyncholophus rubripes*, *Rhagidia halophila*, *Halotydeus hydrodromus*.

Halbert 1915, upper shore: *Gamasus kempersi*, *G. immanis*, *Halolaelaps celticus*.

Pugh, King & Fordy 1987, Milford Haven: *Phaulodinychnus repleta* (with *Thinozercon* at Beggar’s Reach), *P. minor* (Neyland); Gamasina: *Hydrogamasus salinus*, *Halolaelaps marinus*, *Thinozeius fucicola*, *Macrocheles superbus*, *Onchodellus tessellatus*, *Saprogamasellus incisus*, *Arctoseoides ibericus*, *Platyseius necorniger*, *Cyrtodrolaelaps incisus*.

What Thinozercon looks like



Golden brown alive (pale on old slides), a flattened oval a little over **1 mm** long: visible to the naked eye as a slow speck, easy with a hand lens. Pointed in front with two feathery bristles. Three separate back shields in females and young (fused in males); males smaller, darker, narrower behind, with thickened back legs.

Halbert 1915, Plate VII fig. 26j; Athias-Binche 1982. A field candidate stays a candidate until examined under a microscope.

Field ethics

- Put every stone back exactly as it was, the same way up, in the same hollow.
- Do not remove stones, weed banks or debris from the shore.
- Specimen collection is optional and only under the project’s collection protocol. A record with nothing collected is a full record.
- Watch the tide and stay off soft mud and undercut banks. Do not go alone onto a rising tide.

Reporting

Photograph the completed record and email it, with the habitat photographs, to armando@rosariolebronentomology.com, or use the “Report a visit” button in the shore browser, which fills in the shore for you. Project page: rosariolebronentomology.com/thinozercon. Records of searches that found nothing are wanted just as much as anything else.