

## Chapter 14 Order Collembola

Collembola, or springtails, is widespread in the world and usually found in terrestrial habitats. They are tiny (usually less than 3 mm long), and the integument is water-repelling, which allows them to float on the surface film of the water. They usually occur in decaying leaf packs where detrital foods are available (Christiansen & Snider, 1996). A collembolan bears a structure called a **collophore** on the ventral side of abdominal segment. The **furcula**, an appendage on the fourth abdominal sternite, aids them in springing or jumping into the air. When it is unused, the furcula is folded upward and held by the **tenaculum** on the third abdominal segment. The knowledge of collembolans in Asia is very limited. Isotomidae (Fig.1) is a common family that is usually found along the margins of streams.

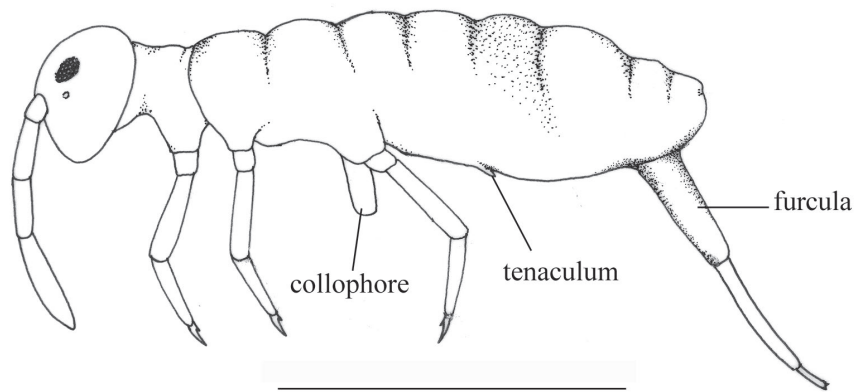


Fig. 1 Lateral view of Isotomidae.  
Scale line = 0.5 mm.

