

***Paracamisia osornensis* gen. n., sp. n. (Acari: Oribatida) from Valdivian forest soil in Chile**

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Abstract

The oribatid mite family Camisiidae is commonly recognized to include four genera and about 100 nominal species, all of which appear to be asexual. Based on adult specimens from Valdivian forest litter in Osorno Province, Chile, we propose a monotypic fifth genus, *Paracamisia* gen. n., with type species *P. osornensis* sp. n. This is the first genus of the family that is not represented in the Northern Hemisphere. Like all other known Camisiidae it seems to be asexual. *Paracamisia osornensis* sp. n. is distinguishable from other camisiids by its shiny, convex notogaster that lacks a suprapleural scissure, and by its large respiratory bothridial sacculi. A preliminary analysis suggests that its closest relatives are to be found in the genus *Platynothrus*.

Key words: Oribatida, Camisiidae, mite, Chile, soil fauna, new species, new genus

Introduction

As currently conceived, the oribatid mite family Camisiidae Oudemans, 1900 includes nearly 100 nominal species that are associated with soil, mosses, lichens and woody vegetation. These are usually encompassed by either two or four genera, with the more split classification recognizing *Camisia* von Heyden, 1826, *Heminothrus* Berlese, 1913, *Platynothrus* Berlese, 1913 and *Neonothrus* Forsslund, 1955. *Neonothrus* is represented by a single Palearctic and Beringian species; the other three genera are cosmopolitan, or nearly so, and each has two or three dozen species (Balogh & Balogh 1992). This classification has been widely used, with recent examples including Fujikawa *et al.* (1993) and Colloff & Halliday (1998). A classification proposed by Balogh & Mahunka (1983) combines all genera but *Camisia* under *Heminothrus*, while retaining *Platynothrus* and *Neono-*