

***Pygmodispus (Pygmodispus) paraequestris* spec. nov.**
(Acari: Heterostigmata: Scutacaridae) from Turkmenistan

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Abstract

Pygmodispus (Pygmodispus) paraequestris spec. nov. (Acari: Scutacaridae) is described from the soil of a cotton field from Turkmenistan. The new species is very closely related to *P. equestris* Paoli, 1911, but differs from it by a much more massive claw on tibia-tarsus I, by a more massive process of trochanter IV and by a shorter solenidion $\omega 2$ on tibia-tarsus I.

Key words: Scutacaridae, *Pygmodispus*, new species, Turkmenistan

Introduction

The genus *Pygmodispus* Paoli, 1911 includes about 30 species (Ebermann & Rodrigues, 2001) belonging to the subgenera *Allodispus* Paoli, 1911, and *Pygmodispus* sensu stricto. During the course of studying of heterostigmatic mites (Acari: Heterostigmata) of Turkmenistan by the junior author, a new species of the genus *Pygmodispus* and subgenus *Pygmodispus* was discovered in the soil samples from a cotton field. The purpose of this paper is to give a detailed description of the new species.

The terminology used in the description follows that of Lindquist (1986). The type material is deposited in the collection of the Department of Acarology, Shmalgausen Institute of Zoology, 01001 Kiev, Ukraine.

Material and methods

The junior author collected mites from soils of a cotton field using Tullgren funnels and