

## ***Rhodacarella*, a new genus of Rhodacaridae mites from North America (Acari: Mesostigmata: Rhodacaridae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new genus of mesostigmatic mites, *Rhodacarella*, is described on the basis of material from bat guano found in a cave in Arizona (U.S.A). *Rhodacarella cavernicola* **sp. nov.**, is described as the type species of the genus. A key to genera of the subfamily Rhodacarinae is given.

**Key words:** Acari, Mesostigmata, Rhodacaridae, *Rhodacarella cavernicola* gen. nov., sp. nov., taxonomy

### **Introduction**

The family Rhodacaridae is used in a variety of broader and narrower senses by different authors. For Lee (1970), the family Rhodacaridae Oudemans, 1902 includes six subfamilies (Rhodacarinae, Gamasiphinae, Laelaptonyssinae, Ologamasinae, Sessiluncinae and Tangaroellinae) although for other authors, Lee's subfamilies have the taxonomic category of families. For Johnston (1968) and Krantz (1978), the family Rhodacaridae Oudemans, 1902 (Rhodacarinae of Lee (1970)) belongs, together with Digamasellidae and Ologamasidae, to the superfamily Rhodacaroidea.

Members of the Rhodacaridae are among the most common small- and medium-sized mesostigmatic predator mites found in a wide variety of soils, in humus, moss, hollows of trees, sea shores, associated with termites and, occasionally, in nests of small mammals. Their elongate idiosoma, divided dorsal shield, 3-tined palptarsal apotele, and enlarged and well-sclerotized dentate chelicerae allow members of this family to be readily identified.