A new species of *Ameroseius* (Mesostigmata : Ameroseiidae) from the Indian Thar Desert

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**Abstract**

*Ameroseius dipankari* sp. nov. collected from the Indian Thar Desert is described and illustrated in this work. *A. dipankari* shows affinities with *A. eumorphus*.

**Key words**: *Ameroseius dipankari* sp. nov., Thar Desert, Rajasthan, India

**Introduction**

Species of the genus *Ameroseius* are among the largest mesostigmatid mites and are often encountered in decomposing litter, haystacks, house dust, and on insects and mammals. Nearly 50 species of *Ameroseius* mites are known from all over the world. The first record of *Ameroseius* from India is known through the work of Bhattacharyya (1972). He described a new species, *A. bengalensis* from decomposed water hyacinth litter in West Bengal. Kumud *et al.* (1989) published records of *A. plumigera* Oudemans and *A. plumosus* Oudemans from Haryana. Modak *et al.* (1995) reported *A. plumigera* from house dust samples in West Bengal while Datta (1999) reported *A. bengalensis* from Assam. The genus is now described for the first time from the Thar Desert.

This contribution is a part of the project entitled “Studies on Faunal Diversity in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan”.

**Material and methods**

Specimens were collected using the standard method adopted by Bhattacharyya and Bhattacharyya (2004). Setal notation of Lindquist and Evans (1965) is followed in this descrip-