A review of the Pomerantziidae (Acari: Prostigmata: Pomerantzioidea), with the description of a new genus

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Abstract

The family Pomerantziidae is reviewed and the genus Pomerantzia Baker is redefined. A new genus Apomerantzia is established for two described species, A. kethleyi (Price, 1975) comb. n. and A. prolata (Price, 1971) comb. n., formerly placed in Pomerantzia. Keys to stages and species of the family are provided. An Oriental species, P. subterranea sp. n., collected from deep soil in Fuzhou, China is described and illustrated. The family is recorded in China for the first time.

Key words: Pomerantziidae, review, new genus, new species

Introduction

Pomerantziidae was proposed by Baker (1949) for a single species of mite from peach orchard soil in the Southern United States. Presently, it comprises only four valid species in one genus, Pomerantzia charlesi Baker, 1949, P. prolata Price, 1971, P. benhami Price, 1974, and P. kethleyi Price, 1975. All were collected from deep soil or humus in the United States (the undescribed species from Malaysia mentioned by Kethley 1990 is not discussed here). A further species described here, P. subterranea sp. n., collected from 20 to 40 cm deep soil in Fuzhou, China, is added to the family.

Price (1975) presented an identification key to adult females of the four species that showed they could be divided into two groups. Pomerantzia kethleyi and P. prolata are clearly distinct from the other two species, and are here placed in a new genus, Apomerantzia.