Phytoseiid mites of the subtribes Typhlodromalina and Euseiina (Acari: Phytoseiidae: Euseiini) from sub-Saharan Africa

G.J. DE MORAES1, I.D. ZANNOU1, A.R. OLIVEIRA1, J.S. YANINEK2 & R. HANNA3

1Depto. Entomologia, Fitopatologia e Zoologia Agrícola; ESALQ-Universidade de São Paulo; 13418-900 Piracicaba-SP; Brazil; gjmoraes@carpa.ciagri.usp.br
2Dept. Entomology; Smith Hall Room 100; 901 W. State Street; Purdue University; West Lafayette, IN 47907-2089; USA
3Biological Control Centre for Africa, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, 08 B.P. 0932, Cotonou, Benin, West Africa

Abstract

Twenty-four phytoseiid species of the subtribe Typhlodromalina Chant & McMurtry are reported in this paper. They refer to all species of this subtribe now known to occur in sub-Saharan Africa, and they belong to the genera Amblydromalus Chant & McMurtry (5 species), Prasadromalus Chant & McMurtry (1 species), Typhlodromalus Muma (7 species) and Ueckermannseius Chant & McMurtry (11 species). Ten of these species are described for the first time and 11 species are redescribed. All of these were collected in cassava habitat, in an effort to determine the mites of that agro-ecosystem in that region. Redescriptions are based mostly on specimens collected in this study; for 6 species, redescriptions are also based on type specimens. A key to help in the separation of Typhlodromalina presently known to occur in sub-Saharan Africa is included. The morphological relation between a group of sub-Saharan species of Euseius (2 of which first described in this paper) and Ueckermannseius is also discussed.

Key words: Biological control, predator, cassava, taxonomy

Introduction

The family Phytoseiidae contains predators that have been extensively used for the biological control of mite and insect pests on several crops worldwide. The ultimate use of each predator for pest control in a given region is commonly the result of a series of studies that starts with the inventory of the faunistic composition of the groups present in that region.