



## ***Olopachys (Olopachylaella) gronychi* subgen. nov., sp. nov., a new species of mite from Bulgaria (Acari: Mesostigmata: Pachylaelapidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new subgenus and species, *Olopachys (Olopachylaella) gronychi* **subgen. nov., sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated from the Stara Planina Mountains of Bulgaria. A key to the adults of the known species of the genus *Olopachys* is provided.

**Key words:** Acari, Pachylaelapidae, *Olopachys*, *Olopachylaella*, description, new species, identification key, Bulgaria

### **Introduction**

The Pachylaelapidae is a well defined and relatively stable family of mites with a generally accepted genus-level classification. In Europe, seven genera have been reliably recorded and documented, viz. *Olopachys* Berlese, 1910, *Onchodellus* Berlese, 1904, *Pachylaelaps* Berlese, 1888, *Pachyseius* Moraza & Johnston, 1990, *Pachyseius* Berlese, 1910, *Pseudopachyseius* Moraza & Johnston, 1993, and *Sphaerolaelaps* Berlese, 1903.

*Olopachys* was proposed as a new subgenus by Berlese (1910) with type species *Pachylaelaps (Olopachys) scutatus* Berlese, 1910, found in Italy. Karg (1971) classified *Olopachys* within the genus *Pachylaelaps*, but this decision has not gained general acceptance. It was reversed, for example, by Koroleva (1976, 1977) and Karg (1993), who regarded *Olopachys* as a taxon with separate generic status.

*Olopachys* is a small genus whose representatives are distributed mainly throughout south-eastern Europe, primarily in the Caucasus, Transcaucasia and adjacent regions. Species diversity in western and southern Europe is lower. *Olopachys* currently includes 12 described species (Berlese, 1910; Sellnick, 1950; Reitblatt, 1958; Koroleva, 1976, 1977). The existing knowledge of the genus was summarised by Koroleva (1977), with the illustration or re-illustration of the 12 known species and an identification key to species. The classification of the known *Olopachys* species, based primarily on morphology of the spermathecal apparatus, and developed by Koroleva (1976), has gained universal applicability and acceptance (Karg, 1993).

### **Materials and methods**

Mites were extracted from sifted detritus by means of a modified Berlese-Tullgren funnel extractor (photo-thermoeclector) powered by a 40 watt bulb. The extraction lasted 48–72 hours. Before identification, the specimens were mounted on permanent microscope slides, using the Liquido de Swan medium. Illustrations were made using a normal optical microscope equipped with Abbé's drawing tube. The metric data for each species are based on new measurements from available specimens. Measurements were made from slide-mounted