



New mite species of the genus *Cunaxa* (Acari: Prostigmata: Cunaxidae) from the Crimea, Ukraine

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Abstract

Six new mite species of the genus *Cunaxa* Von Heyden, 1826 from the Crimean Peninsula (Ukraine), viz. *C. gordeevae* **sp. nov.**, *C. guanotoleranta* **sp. nov.**, *C. maculata* **sp. nov.**, *C. papuliphora* **sp. nov.**, *C. violaphila* **sp. nov.** and *C. yaylensis* **sp. nov.** are described and figured. A key to species of *Cunaxa* from the Crimea, all having a single dorsal propodosomal plate in the female, is provided.

Key words: Cunaxidae, new species, Crimea, taxonomy, key

Introduction

Representatives of the genus *Cunaxa* Von Heyden, 1826 (sensu Den Heyer 1979a, 1980) are known from all continents except Antarctica (Corpuz-Raros & Garcia 1995; Den Heyer 1979a, 1979b; Smiley 1992). Previously 7 species of *Cunaxa* were recorded from the Crimea: *C. capreola* (Berlese, 1890); *C. setirostris* (Hermann, 1804); *C. heterostriata* Haustov & Kuznetsov, 1998; *C. anomala* Haustov & Kuznetsov, 1998; *C. sudakensis* Haustov & Kuznetsov, 1998; *C. bochkovi* Haustov & Kuznetsov, 1998 and *C. dentata* Sergeyenko, 2002 (Kuznetsov & Livshits 1979; Khaustov & Kuznetsov 1998; Sergeyenko 2003). During a study of mites of the family Cunaxidae Thor, 1902 of the Crimea several new species of the genus *Cunaxa* were collected. The descriptions of six new species and a key to species of *Cunaxa* of the Crimea, all having a single dorsal propodosomal plate in the females, are provided in this paper. All new species morphologically resemble *C. setirostris* (Hermann, 1804) which was redescribed in a recent paper (Den Heyer & Sergeyenko 2009).

Materials and methods

Type materials are deposited in the collection of the Nikita Botanical Gardens-National Scientific Center (Yalta, Crimea, Ukraine), also partially in the collection of the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Kiev, Ukraine) and in the Zoological Museum of National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Kiev, Ukraine).

Mites were collected from soil and litter using Berlese funnels or directly picked off from plants. Specimens were mounted in Hoyer's medium and then studied by means of an MBI-11 light microscope with a phase contrast devise. Drawings were made with aid of a RA-7 drawing tube. Microphotographs of the cuticle were made with a Leica interference contrast microscope in the Laboratory of Parasitology of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science (St. Petersburg, Russia).

Terminology and setal nomenclature of the ventral side of the body follow that of Den Heyer (1981). Dorsal body setal designations follows that of Kethley (1990), as adapted for the Bdelloidea by Den Heyer