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New species of Uropodina from Madagascar (Acari: Mesostigmata)

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Abstract

Seven new species and one new genus of Uropodina are described from Madagascar. The third Afrotropical species of *Polyaspis* is described (*Polyapis* (*Polyaspis*) *madagascarensis* **sp. nov.**), with a key to the Afrotropical species of the genus. The first species of *Dinychus* from the Afrotropical region is described, as *Dinychus lepus* **sp. nov.**. An unusual new species of *Trichouropoda* species is described as *Trichouropoda madagascarica* **sp. nov..** A new genus (*Malagana* **gen. nov.)** is described, with type species *Malagana rotunda* **sp. nov.**. The genus *Pulchellaobovella* is recorded from the Afrotropical Region for the first time, on the basis of *Pulchellaobovella madagascarica* **sp. nov.**, with nomenclatural notes on the genera *Pulchellaobovella* and *Janetiella*. *Uroobovella graeca* Kontschán, 2010 is moved into the genus *Pulchellaobovella*, as *Pulchellaobovella graeca* (Kontschán, 2010b) **comb. nov**. Two new species of *Rotundabaloghia* (*Circobaloghia*) are described, *Rotundabaloghia* (*Circobaloghia*) *ermilovi* **sp. nov.** and *Rotundabaloghia* (*Circobaloghia*) *kaydani* **sp. nov.**

Key words: Acari, Mesostigmata, Uropodina, new genus, new species, Madagascar

Introduction

The island of Madagascar lies in the Indian Ocean close to the eastern coast of Africa, from where was separated in the Mesozoic (Flynn & Wyss, 2003). Due to its separation from the other fragments of the former Gondwana, the fauna of Madagascar has evolved in isolation, which has resulted a high degree of endemisms on this island (Paulian & Viette, 2003). The majority of the known endemic taxa are vertebrates (e.g. lemurs, other mammals, reptiles, etc) (Rabearivony *et al*., 2010), but soil-inhabiting invertebrate groups such as mites (Mahunka, 2009, 2011; Niedbała, 2004) and earthworms (Razafindrakoto *et al*., 2010) also contain endemic taxa.

The Uropodina of Madagascar have scarcely been investigated. The first three species were reported by Vitzthum (1921). Later, Hirschmann (1989, 1990, 1991), Hirschmann & Wiśniewski (1986, 1987), Wiśniewski & Hirschmann (1992) and Wiśniewski *et al*. (1992) also described new Uropodina mites from Madagascar. Vitzthum (1921), Hirschmann (1990), Hirschmann & Wiśniewski (1986, 1987) and Wiśniewski *et al*. (1992) all based their descriptions only on the nymphs, without any information about the adults. The adult stages are known only for two described species, *Oplitis euchroeana* Wiśniewski & Hirschmann, 1991 and *O. solmani* Wiśniewski & Hirschmann, 1991. More recently Kontschán (2007, 2010a) and Kontschán & Starý (2012, 2013) worked on the Uropodina mites of Madagascar and presented six new species. Up to now, 16 species have been recorded from Madagascar. This new paper contains the description of another seven new species.

Material and methods

Specimens were cleared in lactic acid and drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube. All specimens are stored in ethanol and deposited in in the Natural History Museum of Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG). The names used for sternal setae are for identification only. For example, St5 in one genus is not necessarily homologous with

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