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Supplement to the knowledge of ptyctimous mites (Acari, Oribatida) from Palaeartic Region

WOJCIECH NIEDBAŁA

Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89, 61-614 Poznań, Poland. E-mail: wojciech.niedbala@amu.edu.pl

Abstract

A list of over 400 new localities studied for ptyctimous mites within Palaeartic Region and a list of 96 identified species of ptyctimous mites of 20 genera are given. The species, knowledge of whose zoogeographical ranges was extended, have been pointed out. One new species, *Phthiracarus pachys* **sp. nov.** from Spain, is described. A few rare species have been diagnosed and their additional morphological data are given. The species from a few papers that have not been included in the monograph by Niedbała (2011) are commented on. The unjustified recombinations of species between certain genera (Subías 2004, updated in 2015) and unaccepted proposals on synonymy of some species by Subías & Shtanchaeva (2011) have been commented on.

Key words: oribatid, ptyctimous mites, new species, new localities, zoogeographical range of species, Palaeartic

Introduction

Ptyctimous mites are one of the primitive groups of oribatid mites endowed with a mechanical defensive mechanism—ptychoidy. The last monograph (Niedbała 2011, 2012) of this group concerned the Palaeartic Region. This monograph presented a systematic analysis of 293 species based on the morphological features, indication of their chorotypes and the zoogeographical distribution of species.

The main aim of this paper is to present a list of new localities from different countries of the Palaeartic Region together with the identified ptyctimous mite species. In total, over 400 new localities were investigated (the majority from Poland, over 170, and Slovakia, over 80) and 103 species of 20 genera were identified. On the basis of these data it was possible to find out which species have extended their known zoogeographical range.

One new species from Spain is described.

For a few rare species, some additional morphological data or diagnoses were given.

Moreover, a few papers, not included in or published after the monograph by Niedbała (2011), were analysed. In these papers, the species new to a given country are mostly listed, with two exceptions: Niedbała & Dabert 2013 and Sergenko 1994. Those species mentioned in them and new to the country or region are noted here in.

In this supplement I take into consideration only the papers which reliably prove the occurrence of a given species with a description of morphological features or with a drawing. The data from catalogues or lists of species without a comment from the authors have not been taken into regard.

As this paper is a form of catalogue, I do not give names of the authors of the descriptions of relevant species in the list of references.

I definitely disapprove the practice of recombination of genus-groups and synonymisation of species performed without morphological analysis. I also express my view on the genus-groups recombination (Subías 2004, updated in 2015) and synonymisation of species (Subías & Stancheeva 2011) without detailed morphological analyses.