

## New phytoseiid mites (Acari: Phytoseiidae) from tropical Africa

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### Abstract

Five new mite species of the family Phytoseiidae (Acari: Mesostigmata) are described from Central Africa: *Typhlodromalus breviscutus* n. sp., *Typhlodromips occidentafricanus* n. sp., *Typhlodromips extrasetus* n. sp., *Australiseiulus laterisetus* n. sp. and *Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) cephalochaitosus* n. sp.

**Key words:** Acari, Phytoseiidae, *Typhlodromalus*, *Typhlodromips*, *Australiseiulus*, *Typhlodromus*, taxonomy

### Introduction

Mites of the family Phytoseiidae have been widely studied for the biological control of phytophagous mites. This paper refers to five new species of phytoseiid mites collected in Central Africa, in surveys to determine the mite fauna in cassava growing areas, prior to the introduction of exotic predators of the same family for the biological control of *Mononychellus tanajoa* (Bondar), the cassava green mite (Yaninek et al. 1993). Predator pre-release surveys are important as a base to determine the establishment of the introduced species and the impact of such introductions. This paper constitutes a partial report on the phytoseiid mites collected in those surveys.

In species descriptions, measurements are given in micrometers. Setal nomenclature follows that of Rowell et al. (1978) and Chant and Yoshida-Shaul (1991) for dorsal and ventral surfaces, respectively. Types were deposited at ESALQ/USP – Universidade de São Paulo, Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz, Departamento de Entomologia, Fitopatologia e Zoologia Agrícola, 13418-900 Piracicaba-SP, Brazil.