Two new species of eriophyoid mites (Acari: Eriophyoidea) from grasses in Poland

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Abstract

Two new eriophyoid species collected in Poland are described and illustrated. *Acaralox arundinaceus* sp. n. was found in leaf sheaths of *Phalaris arundinacea* L. (Poaceae), and the intensity of its infestation was 78.6 (n= 22; 95% CI: 43.8- 141.1) specimens per stem. *Abacarus longilobus* sp. n. was found vagrant on *Bromus inermis* Leyss. (Poaceae), and the intensity of its infestation was 49.6 (n= 7; 20.7-101.3). This species was also found on three other grass species, however, its infestation intensity on these plants was lower.

Introduction

Over 3000 species of eriophyoid mites are known in the world fauna, including about 140 reported from grasses (Amrine & Stasny 1994; Skoracka & Boczek 2000a; Skoracka 2001; Huang 2001a; 2001b). Most grass-associated eriophyoids live as vagrants on the upper surface of leaves, however some of them were found on inflorescences, leaf-sheaths or leaf-ligules (Amrine & Stasny 1994). They were recorded from more than 150 species of grasses, both wild and cultivated. Several species of eriophyoids are known as pests causing significant losses in pasture and seed grasses, including cereals. The grass mites are widespread in Eurasia and North America. Besides, there are some records from Australia and New Zealand, South Africa and South America (Amrine & Stasny 1994; Frost & Ridland 1996; Oldfield & Proeseler 1996).

In Poland extensive studies on the grass-inhabiting eriophyoids have been conducted since 1998. As a result, 12 eriophyoid species feeding on grasses are presently known from the Polish fauna up to date. They belong to the genera: *Abacarus, Aceria, Aculodes*