

***Aculus sayanicus*, a new species of Eriophyidae (Acari: Eriophyoidea) from grasses in Russia**

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Abstract

A new species of Eriophyidae collected in Sayan Mountains in Russia is described and illustrated, based on adults of both sexes and the nymph. *Aculus sayanicus* n. sp. was found vagrant on *Poa sibirica* Roshev. A new host plant for *Abacarus acutatus* Sukhareva is recorded.

Key words: *Abacarus acutatus*, *Aculus sayanicus*, Eriophyoidea, grasses, new host record, new species, Poaceae, taxonomy

Introduction

The eriophyoid genus *Aculus* includes more than 220 species, infesting both woody and herbaceous plants in many countries. Quite a few of them are harmful to their host plants. Taxonomic studies on the grass-inhabiting eriophyoids have been conducted mainly in North America, Asia, Europe, and also in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and South America. As a result, about 140 species have been reported from grasses, but only one belongs to the genus *Aculus*, i.e. *A. bambusae* from *Bambusa* sp. in China (Kuang 1991; Amrine 1996; Amrine & Stasny 1994).

This paper presents the description of a new species of *Aculus* collected from grasses, and also a new host record for grass-infesting eriophyoid *Abacarus acutatus* Sukhareva.

Methods

During September 2001 grass samples were collected in east-southern regions of Russia. Grasses were identified after Komarov (1934), Tsvetlev (1976) and Malyshev & Peshkova