

A new species of the genus *Terpnacarus* Grandjean (Acari: Terpnacaridae) from Egypt

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Abstract

A new terpnacarid mite, *Terpnacarus zaheri* sp. n., is described and illustrated. The new species was found in debris under date-palm at Badr town in New Valley, Egypt.

Key words: Acari, Terpnacaridae, *Terpnacarus*, new species, Egypt

Introduction

Mites belonging to the family Terpnacaridae are one of the most unknown groups among the Sarcoptiformes because of their small body size and rarity. Their distribution seems almost world-wide and we can find them in the surface layer of forest soil, especially near the seashore (Shiba 1968). The genus *Terpnacarus* was proposed by Grandjean (1939) with *T. bouvieri* as the type species. Two African *Terpnacarus* species were collected from soil in an *Acacia baileyana* biotope and were described from South Africa by Theron (1976). The present paper deals with a new species of the genus *Terpnacarus* collected from debris under date palm at Badr town in New Valley, Egypt. All measurements are given in micrometers (μm) and as minimum and maximum lengths. The type material of the new species, preserved as slide mounted specimens, will be deposited in the reference Collection of NRC-Plant Protection Department, Cairo, Egypt.

Genus *Terpnacarus* Grandjean, 1939

Type species *Terpnacarus bouvieri* Grandjean, 1939.