

A new species of *Ameroseius* (Mesostigmata : Ameroseiidae) from the Indian Thar Desert

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Abstract

Ameroseius dipankari sp. nov. collected from the Indian Thar Desert is described and illustrated in this work. *A. dipankari* shows affinities with *A. eumorphus*.

Key words : *Ameroseius dipankari* sp. nov., Thar Desert, Rajasthan, India

Introduction

Species of the genus *Ameroseius* are among the largest mesostigmatid mites and are often encountered in decomposing litter, haystacks, house dust, and on insects and mammals. Nearly 50 species of *Ameroseius* mites are known from all over the world. The first record of *Ameroseius* from India is known through the work of Bhattacharyya (1972). He described a new species, *A. bengalensis* from decomposed water hyacinth litter in West Bengal. Kumud *et al.* (1989) published records of *A. plumigera* Oudemans and *A. plumosus* Oudemans from Haryana. Modak *et al.* (1995) reported *A. plumigera* from house dust samples in West Bengal while Datta (1999) reported *A. bengalensis* from Assam. The genus is now described for the first time from the Thar Desert.

This contribution is a part of the project entitled “Studies on Faunal Diversity in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan”.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected using the standard method adopted by Bhattacharyya and Bhattacharyya (2004). Setal notation of Lindquist and Evans (1965) is followed in this descrip-