

Some tarsonemid mites (Acari: Tarsonemidae) from the Brazilian “Cerrado” vegetation, with descriptions of three new species

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Abstract

Seven tarsonemid species were found in leaf samples from the “Cerrado” vegetation in the State of São Paulo in southeastern Brazil. Mensuration data of four species, *Daidalotarsonemus tessellatus* De Leon, *Tarsonemus bilobatus* Suski, *Tarsonemus confusus* Ewing and *T. waitei* Banks are provided. Three new species, *Daidalotarsonemus folisetae* Lofego & Ochoa, *Metatarsonemus megasolenidii* Lofego & Ochoa and *Tarsonemus longisetae* Lofego & Ochoa are described. Food habits of *D. tessellatus* are discussed.

Key words: Acari, Tarsonemidae, Cerrado, phytophagous mites, taxonomy

Introduction

Despite the importance of some mite species of the family Tarsonemidae as pests of different crops, they are poorly known in Brazil, especially on native vegetation. This paper refers to tarsonemid mites collected on native Brazilian plants from the “Cerrado” in the State of São Paulo, in southeastern, Brazil. This vegetation type consists mostly of shrubs and short twisted trees found mainly in the central part of the country, including parts of the State of São Paulo. Originally it covered roughly a quarter of Brazil. In the regions where the mites reported in this paper were collected, the altitude is about 400 m above sea level and the temperature ranges between 15–35°C in the summer and 0–30°C in the winter.