

A new species of *Gamasodes* Oudemans from Australia (Acari: Parasitidae)

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Abstract

Gamasodes queenslandicus sp. nov. (Acari: Parasitidae) is described from Queensland, Australia, on the basis of the deutonymph and male and female adults. This is the first record of the genus for the Australian biogeographic region. Mites at the deutonymph stage were found attached to fruit-feeding species of *Drosophila*, from which they appear to extract haemolymph. A world checklist for the genus *Gamasodes* is provided.

Key words: Acari, Parasitidae, *Gamasodes*, parasitism, *Drosophila*

Introduction

Gamasodes Oudemans (Acari: Parasitidae) is a genus of 24 species of predatory mites that occur in the Palaearctic and Oriental Regions, with a single species in Madagascar (see Appendix). Many species occur in soil and leaf litter, while others have been found in the nests of birds or mammals, or are phoretic on insects. Examples of species with animal associations are *G. bispinosus* (Halbert) from the nest of the coot *Fulica atra* and the grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (Fenda, 1999), *G. guoluensis* Gu & Li from the nest of a rat (Gu & Li, 1995), *G. marmotae* Ma from the nest of the Himalayan marmot, *Marmota himalayana* (Ma, 1992), and *G. buettikeri* Samšičák phoretic on housefly, *Musca domestica*, and other species of flies (Samšičák, 1979). Krantz (1983) recorded *Gamasodes* species as accidental associates of dung beetles. The purpose of this paper is to add new records on the biology and biogeography of this genus by describing a new species associated with *Drosophila* from Queensland, Australia.