

A new species and new record of *Rhombognathus* from Singapore (Acari: Halacaridae)

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Abstract

A new species, *Rhombognathus aspidotus*, and a new record, *Rhombognathus scutulatus* Bartsch, are reported from the shores of Singapore. The new species is characterized by the presence of a dorsal shield and is similar to *R. scutulatus*. The shape of the claws and the ornamentation of the dorsal shield separate *R. aspidotus* from *R. scutulatus*.

Key words: Singapore, Halacaridae, *Rhombognathus*, mangrove, new species, new record

Introduction

The algivorous genus *Rhombognathus* includes at present about 100 species, almost 10 % of all halacarid species. Recently two new species have been described (Bartsch, 2005), both from the shores of Singapore, living in the upper littoral, not submerged during every tidal cycle. The present paper deals with two species from the mid-tidal area.

Material and methods

Singapore lies in the tropics, near 1°N. The tide is approximately semi-diurnal with considerable differences in the tidal amplitude (Hopper, 1998/1999). During the collecting period in Singapore in September/October 2004, the tidal amplitude between high and subsequent low water ranged from 10 to 260 cm.

The samples were collected by the author. The mites were preserved and stored in 70 % ethanol and after clearing mounted in glycerine jelly. Holotype and paratypes are deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore (ZRC), additional material is deposited in the Zoological Museum, Hamburg (ZMH) and the authors collection.