

***Tetrabdella neotropica* (Acari: Bdellidae), a new genus and species from Brazil**

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Abstract

Tetrabdella neotropica Hernandez & Feres n. gen., n. sp. is the first representative of the family Bdellidae from South America. It can be distinguished from other bdellid mites by the presence of two trichobothriae on tarsi III and IV. The subfamily Spinibdellinae is herein redefined to accommodate the new genus. A key to world genera of Bdellidae is presented.

Key words: Acari, Prostigmata, new genus, asymmetry, neotropical, mites, *Hevea brasiliensis*

Introduction

Members of the family Bdellidae are active hunters of small arthropods. Some species, like *Bdellodes lapidaria* (Kramer) and *Neomolgus capillatus* (Kramer) have been successfully used in the control of lucerne flea (Collembola, Sminthuridae) in Morocco and Tasmania (Gerson *et al.* 2003).

According to Van der Schyff *et al.* (2003), the family Bdellidae comprises currently of five subfamilies: Bdellinae, Cytinae, Odontoscirinae, Polytrichinae and Spinibdellinae, that can be distinguished mainly by the number of ventral setae on hypostome and number of trichobothriae on leg segments.

The main studies on the Bdellidae fauna were done in North America (Atyeo 1960), Hawaii (Swift & Goff 1987), Australia (Wallace & Mahon 1972, 1976) and Taiwan (Tseng 1978). No study to date reports on Neotropical Bdellidae. In this paper a new bdellid genus, *Tetrabdella* n. gen., is described from Brazil.