A new species of *Mediolata* Canestrini from Spain (Acari: Stigmaeidae), re-description of *M. chanti* and a key to the known species of *Mediolata*

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Abstract

Two plant-inhabiting species of *Mediolata* were collected in the Iberian Peninsula during biodiversity assessments between 2000–2002. *Mediolata roigi*, sp. nov. and *M. chanti* Gonzalez were collected in Spain and Portugal respectively. The studies were conducted in citrus orchards in Portugal and apple orchards and vineyards in Spain. Because of some incorrect data in the original description of *M. chanti*, it is re-described. *Eupalopsis vandergeesti* Gomaa & Bolland is revealed to be a junior synonym of *M. chanti* and *Mediolata mirus* Chaudhri *et al.* is transferred to the family Eupalopsellidae under the genus *Exthothoris*. A key to the known species of the genus *Mediolata* is provided.

Key words: Acari, key, *Mediolata*, new species, Spain, Stigmaeidae

Introduction

Stigmaeidae comprise more than 20 genera containing more than 300 species (Sepasgosarian, 1990), which are usually identified by the distinctive configuration of the dorsal shields (Summers, 1966). Stigmaeids are important biological control agents of spider mites and inhabit plants or live in soil and organic material. In this family, species commonly feed on spider mites occur mainly in three genera, namely, *Zetzellia* Oudemans, *Agistemus* Summers and *Mediolata* Canestrini (Gonzalez, 1965, Summers, 1966, Jeppson *et al.*, 1975, Santos & Laing, 1985, Gerson *et al.*, 2003). Stigmaeids also feed on other arthropods; for example, *Eustigmaeus johnstoni* Zhang & Gerson was found feeding on several sandfly species in Yemen and Saudi Arabia (Zhang & Gerson, 1995).

Prior to this study, 28 species of *Mediolata* had been described: 11 from Europe