First record of *Simognathus* (Acari: Halacaridae) from Mexico, including the description of a new species

GERARDO RIVAS

Laboratorio de Invertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. México 04510 D.F., México.

Abstract

This is the first record of the genus *Simognathus* and of the subfamily Simognathinae from Mexico. *Simognathus cramerae* **sp. nov.** is described from the Mexican tropical Pacific Ocean. The principal diagnostic features are dorsal setae 2 outside of ocular plate, dorsal setae 3 on anterodorsal plate, and second segment of pedipalp with a ventral bristle and without a ventral apophysis. This species resembles *S. fuscus* Viets, *S. similis* Bartsch, and *S. hulingsi* Newell.

Key words: Halacaridae, Simognathinae, *Simognathus*, Mexico, Mexican tropical Pacific

Introduction

Simognathinae is an entirely marine subfamily of halacarid mites, the species of which are characterized by a heavily sclerotized idiosoma, and a short conical gnathosoma. These mites are common in intertidal and shallow waters, and have a wide world distribution. Simognathinae includes two genera: *Acaromanthis* and *Simognathus*.

Simognathus currently contains forty-five species (Bartsch, 1994; Otto, 2000; Procheº, 2002; Barstch, 2003, 2004; Chatterjee & Young-Chang, 2004; Pepato & Gonçalvez-Tiago, 2004), with seven species having been reported from the eastern Pacific Ocean: *S. disparilis* Bartsch, 1977 and *S. similis* Bartsch 1977 from the Galapagos Islands (Bartsch and Schmidt 1978); *S. areolatus* Newell 1984, *S. hulingsi* Newell 1984, *S. magellanicus* Newell 1984, *S. pectinatus* Newell 1984, *S. obtusus* Newell 1971, and *S. subobtusus* Newell 1984 from Chile (Newell, 1984). *Simognathus fuscus* Viets 1936, *S. minor* Bartsch 1979, and *S. euphractus* Pepato & Goncalvez 2004 have been reported from the American Atlantic.

Knowledge of the halacarid fauna from the Mexican Pacific Ocean is very limited, with four species being known, all from Baja California: *Copidognathus ilsebartschi*