

Two new species of *Veigaia* Oudemans (Acari : Veigaiidae) from India

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Abstract

Two new species, *Veigaia tricuspidata* **sp. nov.** and *V. sisiri* **sp. nov.**, are described and illustrated from India, on the basis of the adult females. A key to the six Indian species of *Veigaia* Oudemans is provided.

Key words: *Veigaia*, India, key, *V. tricuspidata* **sp. nov.**, *V. sisiri* **sp. nov.**

Introduction

Veigaia Oudemans, 1939, is one of the three genera belonging to the family Veigaiidae, the other two genera being *Cyrthyrolaelaps* Berlese, 1905, and *Gamasolaelaps* Berlese, 1905. Species of the genus *Veigaia* are free-living and are mostly associated with soil, decomposed litter, leaf mould, plant parts, mammal nests etc. The genus is estimated to include around 70 species world-wide. The British *Veigaia* were studied in detail by Evans (1955), and a generic revision was presented by Farrier (1957). Bregetova (1961) published a monograph on the Veigaiidae of erstwhile USSR. Other important contributions to this group are those of Berlese (1892–1916), Oudemans (1905–1939), Trägårdh (1904–1931), Willmann (1936), Hurlbutt (1965, 1982, 1984) and Tseng (1994). Only four species of *Veigaia* are known from India. The first record of *Veigaia* from India was in Farrier (1957), who reported the occurrence of *Veigaia serrata* Willmann (1935) at New York from soil associated with imported Indian *Amaryllis* bulbs. However, the exact collection locality of this species cannot be ascertained as Farrier (1957) mentioned the origin of the shipment only. Bhattacharyya (1967) described two new species, *V. sternalis* and *V. orientalis* from Arunachal Pradesh, and Bhattacharyya (1972) recorded another species, *V. uncata* Farrier (1957) from Meghalaya.