



A new species of *Ologamasus* (Acari: Ologamasidae) from Brazil

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Abstract

Ologamasus cananeiae sp. n. is described based on specimens representing all postembryonic stages, collected from litter in a forest area of southeastern Brazil. A key is provided to help in the separation of the seven species known worldwide.

Key words: Edaphic mite, Mesostigmata, taxonomy

Introduction

Mites of the family Ologamasidae (Mesostigmata: Rhodacaroidea) are common inhabitant of tropical forest floors, especially in the litter and the first few centimeters of the subjacent soil. Together with the Uropodidae, ologamasids have been the most numerous Mesostigmata found in recent studies conducted in southeastern Brazil; within this family, *Ologamasus* Berlese seems to be the dominant genus in that region (Silva et al., 2004).

Six species of *Ologamasus* are presently recognized (Karg, 1976). The objective of this publication is to describe a seventh species that has proven to be one of the most common mites found in soils of the Atlantic Forest of the State of São Paulo, in southeastern Brazil.

Soil samples were collected from different areas of the Atlantic Forest and taken to the laboratory for extraction in Berlese funnels. Mites were mounted in Hoyer's medium and examined under a phase-contrast microscope.

In the following description, setal nomenclature is based on Lindquist & Evans (1965) and Lindquist (1979). Measurements of each structure are given in micrometers, with the average measurement for the individuals examined followed (in parentheses) by the respective range (if measurement is variable).

Ologamasus Berlese

Ologamasus Berlese, 1888: 194; Lee, 1970:84; Karg (1976): 185.

Ologamasellus Berlese, 1914: 139.

Ologamasus cananeiae sp. n.

Diagnosis. Tectum with tripartite anteromedial extension; central prong at least twice as long as laterals and occasionally forked. Adult idiosomatic chetotaxy: 6j, 6z, 5s, 5r, 5J, 5Z, 5S, 4R, 5St, 5Jv, 3Zv. Dorsal setae