



A new genus of Neothrombiidae (Acari: Trombidioidea) from Yemen

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Abstract

Solistrus mitrae **gen. et sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from an unknown host collected with a light trap at Al Kowd, Yemen. This is the first record of the family Neothrombiidae in Yemen. The new taxon is based on the larva; deutonymphs and adults remain unknown.

Key words: Neothrombiidae, new genus, larva, key, Yemen

Introduction

The taxonomy of the family Neothrombiidae Feider is in a state of flux. Zhang (1994) revised this family and recognized nine genera, seven of which were known only as larvae and presented a key to world genera. He described two new genera and transferred *Acritrombium* Southcott, 1986, *Paputrombidium* Fain, 1992, *Wondeclia* Southcott, 1987 and *Falsivagothrombium* Zhang & Xin, 1989 (known for postlarval instars only) from the Trombidiidae to the Neothrombiidae.

Saboori (2002) described a new genus, *Southcottella* (larva), from Iran and presented an updated key to world genera.

The family Neothrombiidae was last revised by Zhang & Fan (2005), who described a new genus, *Opil-iotrombium* (larva), parasitic on Opiliones from New Zealand and transferred *Silphitrombium* Fain, 1992, *Neosilphitrombium* Fain, 1992, *Machilitrombium* Fain, 1994 and *Thaitrombidium* Fain, 1998 from the Trombidiidae to this family.

This is the first record of this family from Yemen. In this paper, we describe a new genus and species from Yemen.

Material and methods

Specimens were preserved in 75% ethanol, cleared in lactophenol solution and mounted in Hoyer's medium. Figures were drawn using a BX-51 Olympus microscope equipped with a drawing tube and magnification changer. Measurements were calculated using a Wild microscope. Terminology and abbreviations follow Robaux (1974). Measurements are made in micrometers (µm).