



***Bloszykiella africana* gen. nov., sp. nov., a new mite genus from East Africa (Acari: Mesostigmata: Uropodidae)**

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Abstract

A new monotypic genus, *Bloszykiella africana* **gen. nov., sp. nov.** (Mesostigmata: Uropodina: Uropodidae) is described on the basis of two females and one deutonymph found in soil samples from Tanzania. The new genus is unusual among Uropodina in having large strongly dentate chelicerae.

Key words: Uropodina, new genus, new species, taxonomy, Tanzania

Introduction

Uropodina is a widely distributed group of soil inhabiting mites, which reaches its maximum diversity in the tropical region, especially in tropical rainforests (Lindquist *et al.* 2009). Despite this diversity, the fauna of Uropodina in many tropical countries is poorly-studied. Tanzania is one of the better-studied countries in East Africa, with more than 50 described species (Wiśniewski 1993).

In the last decade, several new Uropodina records have been reported from East Africa, especially from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Zaire, on the basis of the unsorted soil samples of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (Kontschán 2004, 2006a, 2006b, 2008a, 2008b, 2009). Till now six new species were described from Tanzania from this material (Kontschán 2006b, 2008b), and a further new record is presented here.

Material and methods

Specimens were cleared in lactic acid and later stored in alcohol. Drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube. Specimens examined are deposited in the Collections of Soil Zoology of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (HNHM) and the Natural History Museum, Geneva (NHMG). Abbreviations: h1-h4, hypostomal setae, St1-St5, sternal setae. Measurements are given in micrometres (μm), width of idiosoma was taken at the level of coxae IV.

***Bloszykiella* gen. nov.**

Diagnosis. Idiosoma oval, dorsally domed, marginal and dorsal shields fused anteriorly. All dorsal setae short, with pilose distal margins. Submarginal shield reduced posteriorly, pygidial shield in females trapezoidal, bearing one pair of pilose setae. Five pairs of sternal setae smooth and needle-like in females, pilose in deutonymphs. Genital shield of female trapezoidal, with anterior margin situated between coxae III. Peritreme L-shaped in female. Tritosternum with vase-like base, its laciniae subdivided into irregular pilose branches in female and deutonymph. Hypostomal setae h1 in female and nymph pilose in central one-third, distally and