



Oribatella (Acari, Oribatida, Oribatellidae) of eastern North America

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Abstract

The oribatid mite genus *Oribatella* (Oribatellidae) includes 107 species worldwide, with 13 species reported for eastern North America. Herein, I describe six new *Oribatella* species from eastern North America: *O. flagellata* sp. nov., *O. jacoti* sp. nov., *O. nortoni* sp. nov., *O. metzi* sp. nov., *O. texana* sp. nov., and *O. transtriata* sp. nov. *Oribatella metzi* and *O. nortoni* are described on the basis of adults and immatures. The deutonymph and tritonymph of *O. metzi* lack dorsocentral setae *dm* and *dp*, and the diagnosis of the genus is expanded to accommodate these newly described immatures, and also newly described adult characters. I provide expanded, detailed diagnoses for previously described species of eastern North America: *Oribatella arctica* Thor, 1930, *O. brevicornuta* Jacot, 1934, *O. dentaticuspis* Ewing, 1910, *O. gigantea* Berlese, 1916, *O. mediocris* Berlese, 1916, *O. minuta* Banks, 1896, *O. plummeri* Jacot, 1934, *O. pusilla* Berlese, 1916, *O. quadridentata* Banks, 1895, *O. reticulata* Berlese, 1916, *O. reticulatoides* Hammer, 1955 and provide new distribution records where available. I question the specific status of *O. extensa* Jacot, 1934, and consider records of *O. sexdentata* Berlese, 1916 from eastern North America to be doubtful. *Oribatella quadricornuta* (Michael, 1880) is confirmed to occur in eastern Canada. Finally, I give a key to adults of the 18 species of *Oribatella* now known from eastern North America.

Key words: Oribatida, Oribatellidae, *Oribatella*, new species, generic diagnosis, eastern North America, Canada, USA