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***Oribatella* (Acari, Oribatida, Oribatellidae) of western North America**

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Abstract

The oribatid mite genus *Oribatella* (Oribatellidae) includes 18 species known previously from North America. Herein, we describe 11 new *Oribatella* species from montane, subarctic, forest and prairie habitats in western North America: *O. abmi* sp. nov., *O. banksi* sp. nov., *O. ewingi* sp. nov., *O. heatherae* sp. nov., *O. manningensis* sp. nov., *O. maryae* sp. nov., *O. oregonensis* sp. nov., *O. parallelus* sp. nov., *O. pawnee* sp. nov., *O. sintranslamella* and *O. yukonensis* sp. nov. Descriptions of two species (*O. heatherae* and *O. pawnee*) include some developmental instars. That of *O. yukonensis* includes all instars; nymphs retain dorsocentral setae *dm* and *dp*, but the setal morphology changes between larva and nymphs. These immatures bear sclerotized areas on the hysterosoma. Adults of *Oribatella oregonensis* show distinct sexual dimorphism, with three notogastral setae arising from fused porose areas in the male. We provide new distribution records for *Oribatella* species previously known from North America, including *O. arctica* Thor, 1930, *O. canadensis* Behan-Pelletier and Eamer, 2010, *O. jacoti* Behan-Pelletier, 2011 and *O. reticulatoides* Hammer, 1955, and remark on *O. anomola* Grabowski, 1970. We clarify description of the octotaxic system and the interlamellar region in species of *Oribatella* and discuss variability in hysterosomal sclerotization and setation in immatures. Finally, we give a key to adults of the 29 species of *Oribatella* now known from North America.

Key Words: Oribatida, Oribatellidae, *Oribatella*, new species, immatures, immature hysterosomal sclerotization, sexual dimorphism, western North America, Canada, USA

Introduction

The oribatid mite genus *Oribatella* (Oribatellidae) includes 115 species worldwide, with 18 species known for North America (Marshall et al. 1987, Behan-Pelletier & Eamer 2010, Behan-Pelletier 2011). In this paper we describe 11 new *Oribatella* species from montane, subarctic, forest and prairie habitats in western North America. These include: *O. abmi* sp. nov., widely distributed in Alberta; *O. banksi* sp. nov., *O. ewingi* sp. nov. *O. maryae* sp. nov., *O. manningensis* sp. nov., and *O. sintranslamella* distributed in west-coast forests; *O. pawnee* sp. nov., known from grassland in Colorado and Alberta; *O. heatherae* sp. nov., *O. oregonensis* sp. nov., and *O. parallelus* sp. nov., known only from a single state or province, and *O. yukonensis* sp. nov., with a more northerly distribution in Yukon and Alberta. *Oribatella heatherae*, *O. pawnee* and *O. yukonensis* are described on the basis of adults and immatures, and the presence of sclerotized regions on the hysterosoma of these immatures has an impact on the diagnosis of *Oribatella*.