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New Uropodina mites from India (Acari: Mesostigmata)

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Abstract

Six new species of Uropodina are described and illustrated on the basis of specimens collected in India. The new species are *Uroseius (Apionseius) durjadhanai* sp. nov., *Trichouropoda arjunai* sp. nov., *Uropoda bengalica* sp. nov., *Uropoda lawrencei* sp. nov., *Uropoda karnai* sp. nov. and *Discourella pandui* sp. nov.

Keywords: Acari, Mesostigmata, Uropodina, new species, India

Introduction

Uropodina is a distinctive group of soil mites that occurs in most areas of the world. They reach their highest diversity in the tropical regions, especially in tropical rainforests (Lindquist *et al.* 2009). The fauna of Uropodina from some tropical areas is reasonably well documented, but most regions are still unexplored. India is one of the poorly studied regions, with only 17 known species (Wiśniewski 1993; Kotschán 2011).

India has an unusual tectonic history. Before the fragmentation of Gondwana in the early Cretaceous, India was part of the southern supercontinent. After it separated from Gondwana, India (with Madagascar) drifted northwards in the Late Cretaceous. Later Madagascar separated from India and reached its recent position, but India moved towards Asia, and collided with about 50 Mya (Wells 2003) to produce the present shape of south Asia. As a result of this tectonic history, part of the Indian fauna originated from Gondwana, and part came from Laurasia and colonised the subcontinent after it joined Asia (Karanth 2006). This paper adds to our knowledge of the Indian Uropodina mites, and contributes to understanding of the origin of this soil dwelling invertebrate fauna.

Material and methods

Specimens were cleared in lactic acid and drawn with the aid of a drawing tube. All specimens examined are stored in alcohol and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG) and in the Soil Zoology Collections of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (HNHM) Abbreviations: h1–h4 hypostomal setae, St1–St5 sternal setae, ad adanal setae, ps postanal seta.

Results

Uroseius (Apionseius) durjadhanai sp. nov.

(Figs 1–9)

Material examined. *Holotype.* Female. India, Kollangod, Palghat District, Kerala, a few kms from Sirvani, netted in grasses, 27 March 1980, Gy. Topál coll. (HNHM). *Paratypes.* One male, one female in MHNG, four females and four males in HNHM. Locality and date as for holotype.