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Two new chiggers of the genus *Xinjiangsha* (Acari: Trombiculidae) and a key to species of the genus

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Abstract

Two new chigger mites *Xinjiangsha rychliki* **sp. nov.** and *Xinjiangsha stekolnikovi* **sp. nov.** (Acari: Trombiculidae) are described on the basis of single specimens. The larva of *Xinjiangsha rychliki* **sp. nov.** was captured by pitfall trap in Turkey (host unknown) and *Xinjiangsha stekolnikovi* **sp. nov.** was collected from the ears of *Chionomys gud* (Satunin) in Caucasus. The key to the known *Xinjiangsha* species is also presented.

Key words: chigger mites, key, larvae, new species

Introduction

Systematic revisions of the similar genera *Heaslipia* Ewing and *Hoffmannina* Brennan and Jones by Kudryashova (1993) resulted in the erection of the genus *Aboriginesia* Kudryashova. This new genus included all the Palearctic chiggers formerly placed into *Heaslipia* and *Hoffmannina*. All these species parasitize small mammals. About twenty species were included, although some have an unclear taxonomic status (Kudryashova 1998; Stekolnikov 2001; Kováčik & Kalúz 2010).

However, prior to Kudryashova (1993), Wen *et al.* (1984) erected the similar genus *Xinjiangsha* with the type species *Xinjiangsha scutularis* Wen, Shao & Ma. Later, Wen (2003) reviewed the genus *Xinjiangsha* and remarked on the similarity of this genus to *Aboriginesia*. The complex array of different morphological features presented by species in these similar genera evoked a need of a new taxonomic comparative study. Therefore, Stekolnikov & Daniel (2012) expanded the taxonomic diagnosis of the genus *Xinjiangsha*, separating it from the related genera *Neotrombicula* and *Miyatrombicula* on the basis of the presence of scuto-ocular or post-posterolateral setae. However, *Aboriginesia* was found to be a junior synonym of *Xinjiangsha*, because they fulfilled the new expanded taxonomic diagnosis.

The distribution of the genus *Xinjiangsha* includes the territories from North Africa (Vercammen-Grandjean 1956; Brown 2008), Spain to Central Asia (Kolebinova 1970; Kudryashova 1998) and China (Wen *et al.* 1984; Wen 2003). The majority of known species come mostly from sub-mountain or mountain localities, occurring preponderantly in the territories surrounding the Black Sea. This paper brings the descriptions of another two *Xinjiangsha* chiggers from Turkey and Caucasus, respectively. The paper also presents a key to the known *Xinjiangsha* species.

Material and methods

The chigger from Turkey was captured using a plastic pitfall trap with a small amount of monoethylenglycol, which was then collected from the bottom of the trap, and preserved in 70% ethylalcohol. The chigger mite from Caucasus was collected from an ear of *Chionomys gud* (Satunin) caught using the linear snap trap method, and was