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A new species of the genus *Sonotetranychus* (Acari: Tetranychidae) from New Zealand

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Abstract

The genus *Sonotetranychus* consisted of seven species prior to this study. *Sonotetranychus menziesii* sp. nov., collected on *Nothofagus menziesii* and *N. fusca* from New Zealand, is described based on females, protonymphs, deutonymphs and a male. An updated key to the species of *Sonotetranychus* is provided.

Key words: Acari, Tetranychidae, new species, *Sonotetranychus*, Key, New Zealand

Introduction

The Tetranychidae is a diverse group of over 1, 270 described species and 95 genera (Zhang *et al.* 2011). More than 30 species in 10 genera of the Tetranychidae have been recorded from New Zealand (Zhang & Rhode 2003; Sirvid *et al.* 2011). Most of these need redescription or revision and there are many new species in New Zealand waiting to be described, according to a study led by the senior author during 2001 to 2002. This is the third of a series of papers on New Zealand species of the family Tetranychidae (Zhang & Martin 2001; Zhang & Bennett 2009).

The genus *Sonotetranychus* has two sets of duplex setae on tarsus I and one on tarsus II, three pairs of *h* setae and empodial claws bare or sometimes with a minute dorsal hair (Tuttle *et al.* 1976; Zhang & Bennett 2009). Only seven species of *Sonotetranychus* have been described and they are distributed in the Middle East (Yemen), the Americas (Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, USA), Australasia (New Zealand) and Asia (Iran, Pakistan and China) (Tuttle & Baker 1968; Chaudhri *et al.* 1974; Tuttle *et al.* 1976; Tseng 1990; Meyer *et al.* 1992; Feres & Flechtmann 1995; Meyer 1996; Khodayari *et al.* 2008; Zhang & Bennett, 2009). Details on host plants and distribution of these seven species were summarised by Zhang & Bennett (2009). This paper reports a second species of this genus described in New Zealand, collected from *Nothofagus* (Nothofagaceae). The first species from New Zealand, *S. tawhairauriki*, was collected from *N. solandri* var. *cliffortiodes*. *Sonotetranychus menziesii* sp. nov., herein described, was collected from two species of *Nothofagus* from two sites in the South Island and one site in the North Island. An updated key to species of *Sonotetranychus* based on Khodayari *et al.* (2008) is also provided.

Terminology used in this paper follows that applied to the Tetranychidae by Lindquist (1985). All examined specimens are measured in micrometres. Where measurements were taken from multiple specimens, the range is presented. The number of specimens measured does not always equal the number of specimens examined because sometimes structures in a particular specimen are not suitable for measurement.