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## New Oppiidae (Acari: Oribatida) from the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in South Africa

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### Abstract

A checklist of Oppiidae sampled at Golden Gate Highlands National Park in central South Africa is provided. Twelve genera and 17 species were recorded of which one species, *Arcoppia fenestralis*, is recorded from South Africa for the first time. One new subgenus and six new species were identified and are described. The new species are *Brachioppia louwi* sp. nov., *Brachioppiella* (B.) *dawidi* sp. nov., *Brachioppiella* (B.) *goblina* sp. nov., *Kokoppia mandelai* sp. nov., *Lanceoppia* (L.) *scytheae* sp. nov., *Oppiella* (Q.) *goldengatensis* sp. nov.. *Oppiella* (*Quattoppiella*) subgen. nov. is characterized by the absence of costulae on the prodorsum and having four pairs of genital setae.

**Key words:** Oppiidae, fauna, checklist, new species, new subgenus, *Oppiella* (*Quattoppiella*), *Brachioppia*, *Brachioppiella*, *Kokoppia*, *Lanceoppia*, grassland, central South Africa

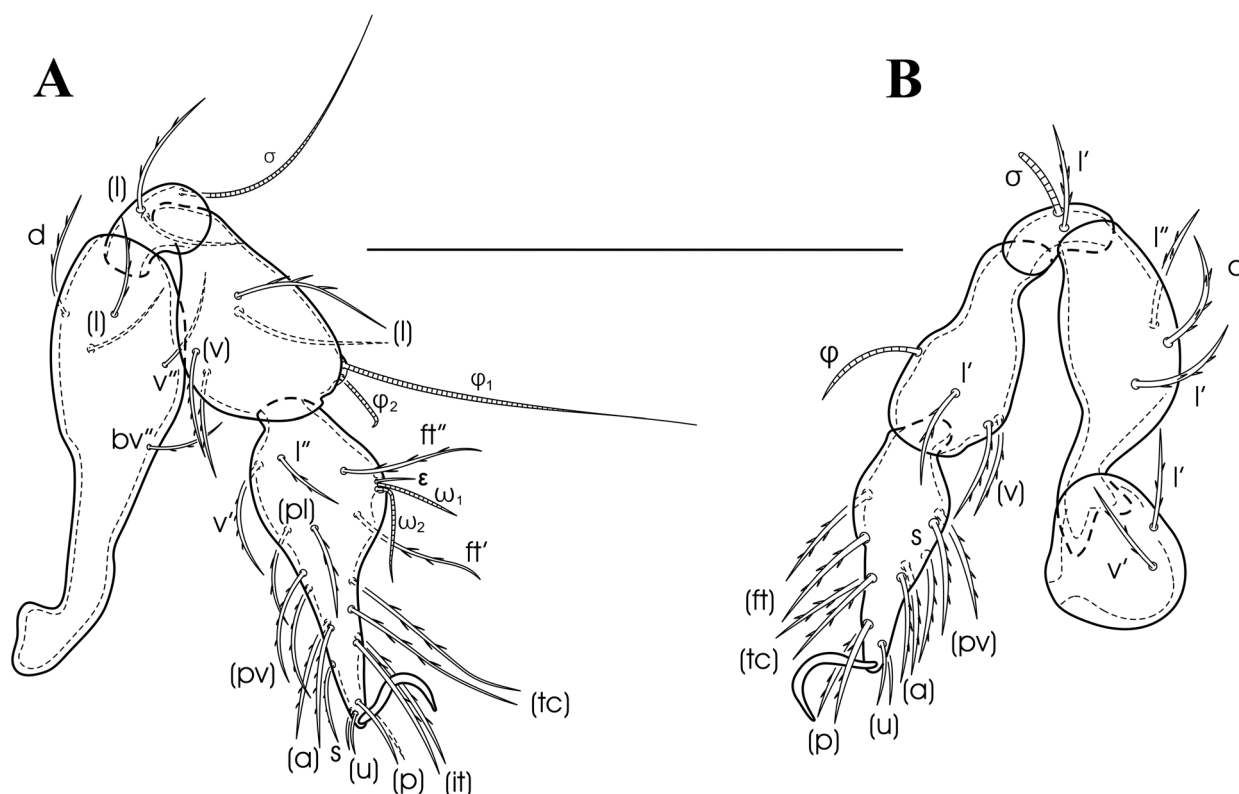
### Introduction

Oppiidae is one of the most species-rich families in Oribatida with 134 genera and 1004 known species (Subías 2004, online version 2014). Despite the high species richness of Oppiidae, only 39 species are known from South Africa (Balogh & Mahunka 1966; Kok 1967; Mahunka 1984, 1985a, 1985b, 1986, 1989; Subías 2004, online version 2014; personal data). The subfamilies Brachioppiinae and Lanceoppiinae are well represented among the South African species.

The genera *Brachioppia*, *Brachioppiella* (*Brachioppiella*), *Brachioppiella* (*Gressittoppia*) and *Kokoppia* fall within the Brachioppiinae. For the subfamily Brachioppiinae I followed the system of Balogh & Balogh (1992) with the following main characters: crista absent; notogastral seta  $c_2$  absent or smaller than the other setae; anterior margin of notogaster without protruding humeral process; lamellar and translamellar lines present or absent; sensillus pectinate, fusiform, or clavate; lyrifissure *iad* inverse apoanal.

The genus *Brachioppia* Hammer, 1961 consists of ten species (Subías 2004, online version 2014). Three species are known from South Africa: *B. excrescens* Mahunka, 1985, *B. koki* Mahunka, 1985, *B. palmata* Mahunka, 1985 (Mahunka 1985a). The generic characters of *Brachioppia* are: fusiform sensillus with variable number of radiating branches; exobothridial region granulated; fine lamellar and/or translamellar lines present or absent; postbothridial tubercle present; seta  $c_2$  absent, therefore nine pairs of notogastral setae present; position of notogastral setae *lm* relative to *la* variable, species-specific; adanal setae *ad*<sub>1</sub> in paraanal position; six pairs of genital setae.

The genus *Brachioppiella* Hammer, 1962 consists of two subgenera, *i.e.* *Brachioppiella* Hammer, 1962 and *Gressittoppia* Balogh, 1983. Thirteen species of *B.* (*Gressittoppia*) are known (Subías 2004, online version 2014) of which three occur in South Africa: *B.* (*G.*) *corallifera* (Mahunka, 1985), *B.* (*G.*) *moresonensis* (Kok, 1967) and *B.* (*G.*) *orkneyensis* (Kok, 1967) (Kok 1967; Mahunka 1985a). *Brachioppiella* (B.) consists of 13 species (Subías 2004, online version 2014), however, none has been described from South Africa yet. The generic characters of *Brachioppiella* are: sensillus fusiform, setiform, clavate or weakly lanceolate with variable number of radiating branches; lamellar and/or translamellar lines present or absent; exobothridial region granulated; postbothridial tubercle present; two or three pairs of sigillae between bothridia; notogastral seta  $c_2$  absent or present as microseta,



**FIGURE 11.** *Oppiella (Quattoppiella) goldengatensis* sp. nov. A. leg I, left, antiaxial view (trochanter not drawn); B. leg III, right, antiaxial view. Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ m.

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