

Phytoseiid mites of the subtribes Typhlodromalina and Euseiina (Acari: Phytoseiidae: Euseiini) from sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

Twenty-four phytoseiid species of the subtribe Typhlodromalina Chant & McMurtry are reported in this paper. They refer to all species of this subtribe now known to occur in sub-Saharan Africa, and they belong to the genera *Amblydromalus* Chant & McMurtry (5 species), *Prasadromalus* Chant & McMurtry (1 species), *Typhlodromalus* Muma (7 species) and *Ueckermannseius* Chant & McMurtry (11 species). Ten of these species are described for the first time and 11 species are redescribed. All of these were collected in cassava habitat, in an effort to determine the mites of that agro-ecosystem in that region. Redescriptions are based mostly on specimens collected in this study; for 6 species, redescriptions are also based on type specimens. A key to help in the separation of Typhlodromalina presently known to occur in sub-Saharan Africa is included. The morphological relation between a group of sub-Saharan species of *Euseius* (2 of which first described in this paper) and *Ueckermannseius* is also discussed.

Key words: Biological control, predator, cassava, taxonomy

Introduction

The family Phytoseiidae contains predators that have been extensively used for the biological control of mite and insect pests on several crops worldwide. The ultimate use of each predator for pest control in a given region is commonly the result of a series of studies that starts with the inventory of the faunistic composition of the groups present in that region.