



***Olopachys (Olopachylaella) gronychi* subgen. nov., sp. nov., a new species of mite from Bulgaria (Acari: Mesostigmata: Pachylaelapidae)**

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Abstract

A new subgenus and species, *Olopachys (Olopachylaella) gronychi* **subgen. nov., sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated from the Stara Planina Mountains of Bulgaria. A key to the adults of the known species of the genus *Olopachys* is provided.

Key words: Acari, Pachylaelapidae, *Olopachys*, *Olopachylaella*, description, new species, identification key, Bulgaria

Introduction

The Pachylaelapidae is a well defined and relatively stable family of mites with a generally accepted genus-level classification. In Europe, seven genera have been reliably recorded and documented, viz. *Olopachys* Berlese, 1910, *Onchodellus* Berlese, 1904, *Pachylaelaps* Berlese, 1888, *Pachyseius* Moraza & Johnston, 1990, *Pachyseius* Berlese, 1910, *Pseudopachyseius* Moraza & Johnston, 1993, and *Sphaerolaelaps* Berlese, 1903.

Olopachys was proposed as a new subgenus by Berlese (1910) with type species *Pachylaelaps (Olopachys) scutatus* Berlese, 1910, found in Italy. Karg (1971) classified *Olopachys* within the genus *Pachylaelaps*, but this decision has not gained general acceptance. It was reversed, for example, by Koroleva (1976, 1977) and Karg (1993), who regarded *Olopachys* as a taxon with separate generic status.

Olopachys is a small genus whose representatives are distributed mainly throughout south-eastern Europe, primarily in the Caucasus, Transcaucasia and adjacent regions. Species diversity in western and southern Europe is lower. *Olopachys* currently includes 12 described species (Berlese, 1910; Sellnick, 1950; Reitblatt, 1958; Koroleva, 1976, 1977). The existing knowledge of the genus was summarised by Koroleva (1977), with the illustration or re-illustration of the 12 known species and an identification key to species. The classification of the known *Olopachys* species, based primarily on morphology of the spermathecal apparatus, and developed by Koroleva (1976), has gained universal applicability and acceptance (Karg, 1993).

Materials and methods

Mites were extracted from sifted detritus by means of a modified Berlese-Tullgren funnel extractor (photo-thermoeclector) powered by a 40 watt bulb. The extraction lasted 48–72 hours. Before identification, the specimens were mounted on permanent microscope slides, using the Liquido de Swan medium. Illustrations were made using a normal optical microscope equipped with Abbé's drawing tube. The metric data for each species are based on new measurements from available specimens. Measurements were made from slide-mounted