



Description of seven new species in the genus *Diptacus* Keifer (Acari: Eriophyoidea: Diptilomiopidae: Diptilomiopinae) from northwestern China

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Abstract

Seven new species of the genus *Diptacus* Keifer from northwestern China are described: *Diptacus abelis* sp. nov. on *Abelia biflora* Turcz. (Caprifoliaceae); *Diptacus zhoushis* sp. nov. on *Carpinus* sp. L. (Betulaceae); *Diptacus maddenis* sp. nov. on *Maddenia hypoleuca* Koehne (Rosaceae); *Diptacus wenisis* sp. nov. on *Viburnum* sp. L. (Caprifoliaceae); *Diptacus serrulatis* sp. nov. on *Photinia serrulata* Lindl. (Rosaceae); *Diptacus mercuriasis* sp. nov. on *Mercurialis leio-carpa* Sieb. et Zucc. (Euphorbiaceae) and *Diptacus sorbusis* sp. nov. on *Sorbus* sp. L. (Rosaceae). All species described here are vagrant on the undersurface of host leaves.

Key words: taxonomy, leaf vagrants, identification key

Introduction

The genus *Diptacus* was established by Keifer (1951) based on the type species *Diptilomiopus sacramentae* (Keifer, 1939). It can be differentiated from other genera in the Diptilomiopinae by scapular setae present, sometimes may be minute; tibiae not longer in comparison with *Dialox* spp.; if with frontal lobe, the lobe without filament and not bent over proximal gnathosoma; coxae with three setae; basiventral femoral setae *bv* absent from both legs, tibial setae present and genual setae present on both legs; dorsum of opisthosoma evenly rounded or opisthosoma with a weak central ridge; all standard setae on the opisthosoma present.

Prior to this study, *Diptacus* included 43 species world-wide (Amrine *et al.* 2003) of which 24 species were known from China (Chen *et al.* 2003 & 2004; Hong & Zhang 1997; Huang 2001; Huang *et al.* 1989; Kuang 1995; Kuang *et al.* 2005; Xin & Dong 1983; Xue & Hong 2005; Xue *et al.* 2006). During field surveys conducted during 2004 and 2005 in northwestern China, seven new *Diptacus* species were found in Shaanxi and Gansu Provinces. These new species are here described and a key to *Diptacus* species is provided.

The morphological terminology used follows Lindquist (1996) and the generic classification is made according to Amrine *et al.* (2003). All specimens were examined with a Leica DMR (Germany) microscope and semi-schematic drawings were made. Measurements are given as a mean followed by the range in brackets, all are in micrometers (μm), and are length when not specified. All type specimens are deposited as slide mounted specimens in the Arthropod/Mite Collection of the Department of Entomology, Nanjing Agricultural University, Jiangsu Province, China.