



## ***Mixturopoda* Baker and Monson, a new genus of the uropodine family Metagynuridae (Acari: Mesostigmata) from the British Isles**

ANNE S. BAKER<sup>1</sup> & FRANK D. MONSON<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK; E-mail: A.Baker@nhm.ac.uk

<sup>2</sup> c/o Entomology Section, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN, UK; E-mail: frank.monson@bopenworld.com

### **Abstract**

A new taxon of mesostigmatid mite of the suborder Uropodina is described from damp, rotten straw associated with Dutch barns in NW England. *Mixturopoda evansi* **gen. nov., sp. nov.** possesses character states that have not previously been recorded in uropodines, *e.g.*, the female genital shield bears setae *st5* and is located behind coxae IV but not within the ventral shield, and barsitarsi II–IV lack seta *pd3*. Other states are a combination of those used to diagnose currently recognized superfamilies, *e.g.*, subcylindrical, separated coxae I that are inserted in the gnathopodal cavity, absence of pedofossae and paragynial shields, and adult dorsal and marginal shields and deutonymphal dorsal shield undivided. *Mixturopoda evansi* is placed in the family Metagynuridae on the basis of the posterior position of the female genital shield. Amendments to the diagnoses of the Metagynuridae and its type genus, *Metagynella*, are proposed.

**Key words:** Mesostigmata, mite, *Mixturopoda evansi*, new species, British Isles, *Metagynella*

### **Introduction**

The Uropodina (Acari: Mesostigmata) is a large, morphologically diverse group of about 2180 species for which a satisfactory higher classification has yet to be proposed. Three superfamilies are currently recognized: Thinozerconoidea Halbert, 1915 and Polyaspidoidea Berlese, 1913 (lower uropodines) and Uropodoidea Kramer, 1881 (higher uropodines). During the course of a programme of familiarisation with the Acari, one of us (FDM) extracted mites from damp, rotten straw taken in and around Dutch barns on arable farms in NW England. Amongst the material obtained were examples of a species that appeared to belong to the Uropodina, but was conspicuous in having the female genital shield located posterior to coxae IV and not enclosed by the ventral shield. Further examination revealed a set of character states that did not qualify the species for inclusion in any supraspecific taxon as currently defined, and also some states that had not previously been recorded in uropodines. In order to accommodate this unusual mite, the new genus *Mixturopoda* is erected for *M. evansi* **sp. nov.**, and both taxa are here described. *Mixturopoda* is assigned to the, until now, monotypic uropodoid family Metagynuridae Balogh, 1943, whose member species also have the female genital shield positioned behind coxae IV. This familial placement necessitates amendments to the diagnoses of the Metagynuridae and its type genus, *Metagynella* Berlese, 1919.

### **Materials and methods**

#### *Collection and extraction of specimens*

Samples of damp rotten straw were taken from three arable farms in Lancashire, NW England (see *Material examined* for localities). The straw was collected down to depths of 15 cm, either just beyond or along the