



Five new species of Tetranychidae (Acarina, Prostigmata) from south Tunisian oasis areas

PHILIPPE AUGER^{1,6}, SAMAH BEN CHAABAN², KAOUTHAR LEBDI GRISSA³,
OTHMAN KHOUALDIA⁴ & CARLOS H.W. FLECHTMANN⁵

¹ Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, UMR CBGP (INRA / IRD / CIRAD / Montpellier SupAgro), Campus international de Baillarguet, CS 30016, F-34988 Montferrier-sur-Lez cedex, France

² Ecole Supérieure d'Horticulture de Chott-Mariem, Département de Protection des Plantes, Laboratoire de Zoologie agricole, 4042 Sousse, Tunisie

³ Institut National Agronomique, Département de Protection des Plantes, Laboratoire de Zoologie agricole, Tunis, Tunisie

⁴ Centre de Recherches Phoenicicoles, 2260 Degache, Tunisie

⁵ CNPq-Brazil Researcher Departamento de Entomologia, Fitopatologia e Zoologia Agrícola, Universidade de São Paulo/ ESALQ, Piracicaba, Brasil

⁶ Corresponding author. E-mail: auger@supagro.inra.fr

Abstract

In this paper we present the description of five new species of tetranychid mites collected in south Tunisian oasis areas. These are: *Bryobia alveolata* **sp. nov.**, *Aplonobia crispipilis* **sp. nov.**, *Petrobia (Petrobia) carthagensis* **sp. nov.**, *Petrobia (Petrobia) pseudotetranychina* **sp. nov.** and *Tetranychus (Tetranychus) atriplexi* **sp. nov.** The notion of dorsal tubercles used to separate the sub-genera *Tetranychina* from *Petrobia sensu stricto* and *Mesotetranychus* among the genus *Petrobia* is also discussed.

Key words: Acari, *Bryobia alveolata* sp. nov., *Aplonobia crispipilis* sp. nov., *Petrobia (Petrobia) carthagensis* sp. nov., *Petrobia (Petrobia) pseudotetranychina* sp. nov., *Tetranychus (Tetranychus) atriplexi* sp. nov., Tunisia

Introduction

Fifteen species of Tetranychidae are known from Tunisia (Bolland *et al.* 1998; Migeon & Dorkeld 2006). Among them, four species are native from this country, namely *Diplonychus jeridi* Auger & Flechtmann 2003, *D. penisinuosus* Auger & Flechtmann 2003, *Petrobia (Mesotetranychus) tunisiae* Manson 1964 and *Petrobia (Tetranychina) marsai* Manson 1964.

In this paper we report the description of five new species of Tetranychidae collected on wild plants common in the neighbourhoods of south Tunisian oasis areas.

Material and methods

Mites were collected directly from field samples in 70% ethyl alcohol. Following clearing in lactic acid (50%) for at least 48 hours they were mounted in Hoyer's medium. The specimens were examined using a Leica DM LB 2 phase contrast microscope and illustrated with the aid of a drawing tube attachment. Measurements were performed using the imaging software Perfect Image® (Clara Vision) coupled with Progres® Capture Pro 2.6 software for image acquisition.

The setal nomenclature used in the description follows Lindquist (1985). Legs chaetotaxy is given in the