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New Uropodine mites from Tanzania (Acari: Mesostigmata)

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Abstract

Three new species and one new genus of Uropodina from Tanzania are described and illustrated. They include the second species of the genus *Bloszykiella* Kontschán, 2010, *Bloszykiella grebennikovi* **sp. nov.**, and the resurrection and re-definition of the genus *Spinosissuropoda* Hirschmann, 1979, with description of a new species, *Spinosissuropoda tanzanica* **sp. nov.** Five species of *Uropoda* are transferred into the genus *Spinosissuropoda* – *S. solarissima* (Hirschmann, 1981) **comb. nov.**, *S. ancoraesimilis* (Hirschmann, 1981) **comb. nov.**, *S. pocsi* (Hirschmann, 1981) **comb. nov.**, *S. ancorae* (Hirschmann, 1981) **comb. nov.** and *S. alata* (Hirschmann, 1981) **comb. nov.** A new monotypic genus, *Afrodinychus* **gen. nov.**, is described and compared with the related genus *Metadinychus* Berlese, 1916.

Key words: Acari, Mesostigmata, Uropodina, new genus, new species, Tanzania

Introduction

Mites in the cohort Uropodina are small or medium sized (300–1200 µm), yellow or reddish-brown members of the soil fauna, which also inhabit leaf litter, moss, lichens and bark. These mites can be found world-wide, from the cold Antarctic region to the hot and wet tropical rain forests. More than 2000 species have been described from all regions of the world (Wiśniewski & Hirschmann 1993). The group reaches its highest level of diversity in the tropics, especially in the tropical rain forests (Lindquist *et al.* 2009). In spite of its diversity in tropical areas, some tropical regions have been poorly studied. One of these regions is East Africa, where only a few species are known from each country. The highest number of species has been recorded from Tanzania, with about 50 species (Wiśniewski 1993; Kontschán 2010), compared with several countries of Europe, from where more than 100 species are known (e.g. Wiśniewski 1993; Mašán 2001). We now add another contribution to the known Uropodina fauna of Tanzania.

Material and methods

Specimens were cleared in lactic acid and drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube. Most specimens are stored in alcohol, other specimens are on slides in Hoyer's medium, and deposited in the Soil Zoology Collections of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (HNHM) and the Biology Centre AS CR, Institute of Soil Biology, České Budějovice (ISB) and Natural History Museum of Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG). Abbreviations: St: sternal setae, h: hypostomal setae, V: ventral setae, *ad*: adanal setae.