A new species of *Separatoppia* (Acari: Oribatida: Oppiidae) from Ethiopia

SERGEY G. ERLMOLOV\(^1\), EKATERINA A. SIDORCHUK\(^2\) & LEONID B. RYBALOV\(^3\)

\(^1\)Laboratory of Entomology, Center of Independent Examinations–NN, Gagarin 97, 603107 Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia. E-mail: ermilovacari@yandex.ru (corresponding author)

\(^2\)Laboratory of Arthropods, Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Profsoyuznaya 123, 117997 Moscow, Russia. E-mail: esidorchuk@rambler.ru

\(^3\)Laboratory for Soil Zoology and General Entomology, Institute of Ecological and Evolutionary Problems, Russian Academy of Sciences, Lenin 33, 117071 Moscow, Russia. E-mail: lrybalov52@mail.ru

Abstract

The oribatid mite genus *Separatoppia* currently comprises four previously described species. We describe a new species, *Separatoppia horvathae* sp. nov., collected from soil in the Harenna forest within the Bale Mountains National Park (southeastern Ethiopia). This new species differs from its congeners by the extremely long sensilli. We present the first description of the ovipositor, gnathosoma and leg setation and solenidia of a *Separatoppia* species.

Key words: oribatid mite, new species, Oppiidae, *Separatoppia horvathae* sp. nov., Ethiopia

Introduction

The oribatid mite family Oppiidae (Acari: Oribatida) comprises 131 genera, 959 species and 48 subspecies (Subías 2010). *Separatoppia* is a very small genus that was proposed by Mahunka (1983) with *Oppia africana* Evans, 1953 as type species. The genus can be identified using the keys of Subías and Balogh (1989). Currently, the genus comprises four species, all distributed in the Ethiopian region: *S. acutipes* (Warburton, 1912) (Seychelles), *S. africana* (Evans, 1953) (Tanzania), *S. gracilis* Mahunka, 1997 (Kenya), and *S. robusta* Mahunka, 1997 (Kenya).

In the present work, we describe a new species of *Separatoppia* collected from soil in the Bale Mountains National Park (southeastern Ethiopia), based on adult specimens. Also, we describe for the first time the ovipositor, gnathosoma, and leg setae and solenidia in a member of *Separatoppia*.

Materials and methods

The locality and habitat data for the new species are given in *Material examined*.

Specimens were mounted in lactic acid on temporary cavity slides for measurement and illustration. All body measurements are presented in micrometers. Body length was measured in lateral view, from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior edge of the ventral plate, to avoid discrepancies caused by different degrees of notogastral distortion. Notogastral width refers to the maximum width in dorsal aspect. Lengths of body setae were measured in lateral aspect. Some specimens were dissected for detailed study of the gnathosoma, ovipositor and legs.

Formulae for leg setation are given in round brackets according to the sequence trochanter–femur–genu–tibia–tarsus (famulus included). Formulae for leg solenidia are given in square brackets according to the sequence genu–tibia–tarsus.