

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

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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 Haremma 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 (femulus included). Formulae for leg solenidia are given in square brackets according to the sequence genu–tibia–tarsus.