

A new diagnosis of *Schalleriella* (Acari: Oribatida: Microzetidae) and a new species from Vietnam

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Abstract

A new species of oribatid mite, *Schalleriella vietnamica* **sp. nov.**, is proposed and described from dark loamy soil of a lagerstroemia forest in Cat Tien National Park (southern Vietnam). This represents the first finding of *Schalleriella* in the Oriental region. The genus currently comprises only the type species, *Schalleriella grabouwensis*, from which *S. vietnamica* differs by the morphology of the lamellar apices and rostral setae and by the presence of an interlamellar tubercle, longitudinal notogastral lines and areoles in the anogenital region. A new generic diagnosis of *Schalleriella* is presented.

Key words: oribatid mites, new species, Microzetidae, *Schalleriella*, Vietnam

Introduction

Microzetidae is a large family of oribatid mites that comprises more than 40 genera and 190 described species. The system and identification of genera in the Microzetidae is complicated, and some distinctive characters are not apomorphic. Identification keys to the genera of Microzetidae were presented by several authors, including Grandjean (1936), Balogh (1962a, b) and Balogh & Balogh (1992).

At present only two species of this family, representing two genera, have been recorded from Vietnam (see Mahunka 1988)—*Berlesezetes ornatisimus* (Berlese, 1913) and *Kaszabozetes velatus* Mahunka, 1988. However, many more can be expected, since the oribatid fauna of Vietnam has been sparsely studied.

In the course of faunistic studies of oribatid mites of Cat Tien National Park (southern Vietnam) we discovered a new species of the microzetid genus *Schalleriella*. *Schalleriella* was proposed by Engelbrecht (1972), with *Schalleriella grabouwensis* Engelbrecht, 1972, from South Africa, as type species. Currently, the genus is monotypic and our records are the first for the Oriental region. Subías (2004, online version 2011) considered *Megazetes nosybe* Mahunka, 1993 as a representative of *Schalleriella*, however he presented no supporting information for this change. We, at present, do not recognize his change pending a detailed substantiation, because *Megazetes nosybe* has differences in some characters (shape of dorsosejugal suture, shape of pteromorphae, insertion of lamellar setae) from representatives of the genus *Schalleriella*.

Our main purpose is to describe and illustrate this new species under the name *Schalleriella vietnamica* **sp. nov.** Since some aspects of morphology (lamellar apices, body proportions) are not entirely consistent with the existing diagnosis of *Schalleriella* we first propose a new, broader diagnosis that also slightly expands the list of characters normally included.