

Oribatid mites from South Chile with description of two new species

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Abstract

In the course of a two-month Franco-Chilean expedition in January and February 2006, we found nine species of oribatid mites from nine genera and eight families. Two new species of oribatid mites, *Pseudantarcticola aquatica* sp. nov. and *Multioppia chilensis* sp. nov., are described from benthic samples from Chile. *Pseudantarcticola georgiae* (Wallwork, 1970) comb. nov. is included in the genus *Pseudantarcticola* from *Antarcticola*. Identification keys to known species of *Pseudantarcticola* and to Chilean species of *Multioppia* are presented.

Key words: oribatid mites, new species, *Pseudantarcticola*, *Multioppia*, Chile

Introduction

The oribatid mite fauna of Chile was first studied by Gervais (1849). Later research has been fragmentary, being continued by Berlese & Leonardi (1903) and Trägårdh (1931). From 1962–2010 investigation on the oribatid fauna of Chile had been more active, with the works of Hammer (1962), Covarrubias (1967, 1986, 1998, 2009), Balogh & Mahunka (1967), Norton (1979), Mahunka (1982), Casanueva & Norton (1997), Martínez & Casanueva (1999), Olszanowski & Norton (2002), Niedbala (2004), Colloff (2009), and the many other papers.

The present study is based on material collected during a two-month Franco-Chilean expedition in January and February 2006 that aimed to explore surface and subsurface (caves) of Madre de Dios archipelago and nearby regions. The Madre de Dios archipelago is located at 50°S, 75°W, among the many islands that constitute the western southernmost Chilean coast. Some of the material herein was also collected on the mainland, in the Torres del Paine area.

The list of identified oribatid mite taxa is presented below (see *Results* section). In the course of taxonomic identification we found two new species, one belonging to the genus *Pseudantarcticola* Balogh, 1970 (Ameronothridae) and the other to *Multioppia* Hammer, 1961 (Oppiidae).

Pseudantarcticola was proposed by Balogh (1970), with *Pseudantarcticola tropica* Balogh, 1970, as the type species. Currently, the genus is monotypic and known only from New Guinea. The diagnostic characters of the genus *Pseudantarcticola* are as follows (see Balogh 1970; and also the additional information from Wallwork 1970 and this paper): body with medium size (581–696 × 278–348); sensilli clavate; interlamellar setae long; body surface smooth; notogaster with 10 pairs of notogastral setae (centrodorsal setae absent); lenticulus absent; six pairs of genital setae; two pairs of anal setae; aggenital neotrichy present or absent.

Multioppia was proposed by Hammer (1961), with *Multioppia radiata* Hammer, 1961 as type species. Currently, it comprises 46 species that collectively have a cosmopolitan (except Antarctica) distribution. The Chilean fauna of *Multioppia* has included two species (Hammer 1962; Covarrubias 2009): *M. australis* Hammer, 1962 and *M. insularis* Mahunka, 1985. The diagnostic characters of