

## A new sand mite of the genus *Euschoengastia* from Tanggula Mountains, Qinghai, China (Acari: Trombiculidae)

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### Abstract

A new species of the sand mite, *Euschoengastia* (*Euschoengastia*) *tanggulensis* sp. nov., is described from *Ochotona curzoniae* in an endemic focus of plague in the north region of Tanggula Mountains in Qinghai province, China. The new species is the third one of the genus *Euschoengastia* in this province.

**Key words:** Sand mite, *Euschoengastia*, Trombiculidae, new species, Tanggula Mountains

### Introduction

Sand mite larvae of the genus *Euschoengastia* are usually parasitic on small mammals and rodents. The genus *Euschoengastia* Ewing, 1938 is characterized by: having no antero-lateral shoulder,  $PW > 4AP$ , shape of sensilla ranging from thick flagilliform with numerous setules to clavate, galeal seta branched, seldom nude,  $SIF = 7B-B-3/6-2110/1.0000$ . In China, five species of this genus had been recorded. The first recorded species is *E. (E.) alpina* Sasa et Jameson, 1954 by Chen (1960) in Hangzhou. Later, two new species were described: *E. (E.) kalakunluna* Shao et Wen, 1984 in Xinjiang and *E. (E.) weifangensis* Teng et Zhang, 1989 in Shandong. In 1990s, another two new species were collected and described from Qinghai province: *E. (E.) jiuzhiensis* Yang, 1992 and *E. (E.) qilianensis* Yang et Li, 1996. It should be noted that Wang's work (1998) about *Euschoengastia* (*Farrellioides*) *striata* was accorded the records of *Leptotrombidium* (*L.*) *striatum* Nadchatram et Traub, 1964 by Lu (1976) and Chen (1978, 1979) in Shanghai and Jiangsu without any specific descriptions. Wang erroneously illustrated the original data and scutal drawing by Nadchatram & Traub. After a detailed reexamination of the local specimens of "*L. (L.) striatum*", Wen & Lu (1984) confirmed it as an undescribed species, *Leptotrombidium* (*L.*) *shanghaensis* Wen et Lu, 1984, but not *E. (F.) striata* at all.

In the present paper, *Euschoengastia. tanggulensis* sp. nov. is described in comparison with *E. jiuzhiensis* and *E. qilianensis* found in Qinghai Province. Terminology and abbreviations used in the text follow Wen (1978, 1984). All measurements used are in micrometres.

### *Euschoengastia* (*Euschoengastia*) *tanggulensis* sp. nov. (Figs.1-7)

*Type Material.* Holotype and nine paratypes, larvae ex *Ochotona curzoniae* Hodgson from the north region of Tanggula Mountains, 32°40'–34°55' N, 89°40'–93°31' E, s.l. 4700 m, Qinghai province, 21 VII 2001, Plague Natural Disease Monitor Team coll. Holotype and paratypes deposited in the Institute for Endemic Disease Prevention and Control of Qinghai province, China.