

Article

Ptyctimous mites (Acari, Oribatida) from southern Ethiopia with description of three new species

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Abstract

In the course of a one-month Russian-Ethiopian expedition in November 2010, we found seven species and six genera of ptyctimous mites in the southern vicinities of Ginchi City (southern Ethiopia). Three new species, *Indotritia paraconsimilis* **sp. nov.**, *Hoplophthiracarus parafrater* **sp. nov.** and *Arphthycarus cavernus* **sp. nov.**, are described. All three new species are from soil in Cholomu Forest. A few of morphological comments on *Hoplophthiracarus ambiguus* have been added.

Key words: oribatid mites, ptyctimous mites, new species, Ethiopia

Introduction

This work is a part of our continuing study of the Ethiopian oribatids (Niedbała 2008; Ermilov *et al.* 2010a–h; Niedbała & Ermilov 2011), and includes data about new ptyctimous mites. In the course of a one-month Russian-Ethiopian expedition of the southern vicinities of Ginchi City (southern Ethiopia) in November 2010, we found seven species, six genera and three families of ptyctimous mites. Of these, three are new species, belonging to the genera *Indotritia* Jacot 1929, *Hoplophthiracarus* Jacot 1933 and *Arphthycarus* Niedbała 1994, and are described below. Until now, only five species of ptyctimous mites were described from Ethiopia (Mahunka 1982; Niedbała 2008; Niedbała & Ermilov 2011).

Material and methods

Material was collected from: see in the *List of identified ptyctimous mite taxa* subsection of *Result* section. Forty four adult specimens were studied..

All mites were submerged in lactic acid and mounted on temporary cavity slides for the duration of the study. Body measurements are presented in micrometers. The length of body setae was measured in the lateral aspect.

All types of new species are lodged in the Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland.

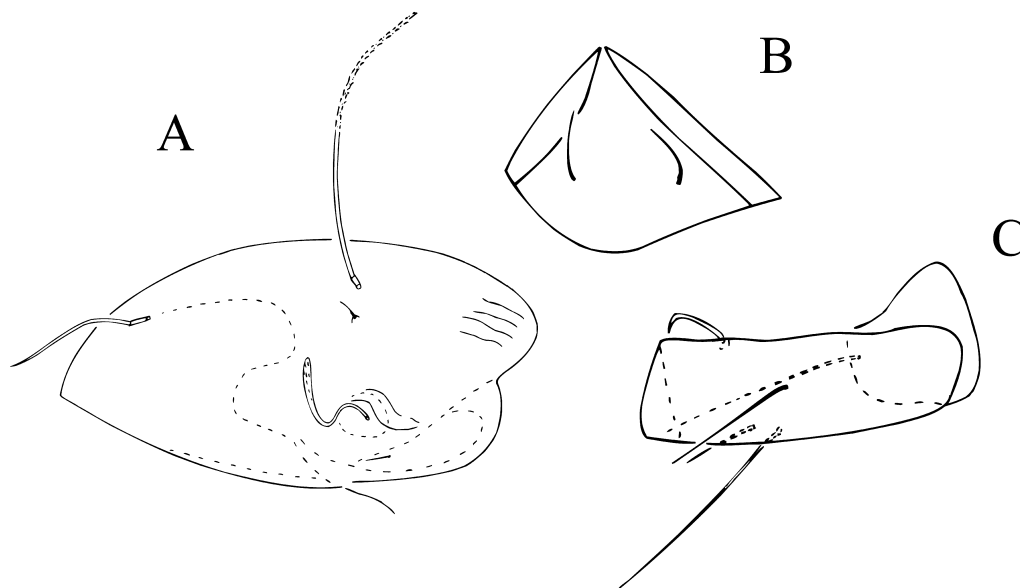


FIGURE 4. *Hoplophthiracarus ambiguus* Niedbala, 1982, adult: A—prodorsum, lateral view; B—mentum of subcapitulum; C—trochanter and femur I.

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