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Article

Two new species of oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida) from Ecuador

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Abstract

Two new oribatid mite species, *Hermannobates bifurcatus* **sp. nov.** (Hermanniellidae) and *Xenillus brevisetosus* **sp. nov.** (Liacaridae), are described from Ecuador. *Hermannobates bifurcatus* **sp. nov.** is similar to *Hermannobates monstruosus* Hammer in having the combination of a tuberculate prodorsum, foveolate notogaster, and long setiform prodorsal and exuvial notogastral setae and sensilli. However it clearly differs from the latter by having some bifurcate epimeral setae, the surface of the prodorsum, and the lengths of some notogastral setae. *Xenillus brevisetosus* **sp. nov.** is similar to *Xenillus davisorum* J. & P. Balogh in having the combination of the same body surface sculpture and the morphology of the lamellar complex, sensilli, and prodorsal and notogastral setae. However it clearly differs from the latter by the length of the lamellar cusps, interlamellar setae and notogastral setae h_1, and number of genital setae. An identification key to Ecuadorian species of *Xenillus* is presented.

Key words: oribatid mites, *Hermannobates*, *Xenillus*, new species, key, Ecuador

Introduction

This paper is a part of our continuing studies on Ecuadorian oribatids, and herein describes two new species belonging to the genus *Hermannobates* Hammer, 1961 (Hermanniellidae) and *Xenillus* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1839 (Liacaridae).

Hermannobates is a small genus that was proposed by Hammer (1961) with *Hermannobates monstruosus* Hammer, 1961 as type species. Currently, the genus comprises eight species, which are distributed in the Neotropical region. Earlier only the type species and several unidentified species of this genus were recorded from Ecuador (see Illig *et al.* 2007). The main generic characters are presented by Hammer (1961), Balogh and Balogh (1988) and also summarized by Balogh and Balogh (1992). The identification keys to many species of *Hermannobates*, including Neotropical species, have been presented earlier (see Balogh & Balogh 1988, 2002; Starý 1998).

Xenillus is a large genus that was proposed by Robineau-Desvoidy (1839) with *Xenillus clypeator* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1839 as type species. Currently, the genus comprises 72 species, distributed in the Holarctic, Oriental and Neotropical regions. Earlier only three species and one unidentified species of this genus were recorded from Ecuador (see Balogh & Balogh 1985; Balogh 1986; Illig *et al.* 2007): *X. brasilianus* Balogh & Mahunka, 1969, *X. ecuadorensis* Balogh & Balogh, 1985, and *X. irregularis* Balogh, 1986. The main generic characters are presented by Balogh and Balogh (1988), Grobler *et al.* (2003) and Weigmann (2006). The identification keys to some

