

## Two new species of oribatid mites of the superfamily Oripodoidea (Acari: Oribatida) from Ethiopia

SERGEY G. ERMILOV<sup>1\*</sup> & LEONID B. RYBALOV<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Phytosanitary Department, Nizhniy Novgorod Referral Center of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia (e-mail: [ermilovacari@yandex.ru](mailto:ermilovacari@yandex.ru))

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Soil Zoology and General Entomology, Institute of Ecological and Evolutionary Problems, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia (e-mail: [lrybalov52@mail.ru](mailto:lrybalov52@mail.ru))

\*Corresponding author

### Abstract

Two new species of the superfamily Oripodoidea, *Scheloribates* (*Bischeloribates*) *lizehugoae* **sp. nov.** and *Zygoribatula josefstaryi* **sp. nov.** are described from material collected from an expedition to Ethiopia during February and March 2012. An annotated checklist of identified oribatid mite taxa is presented. Seven species and two genera are the first records for Ethiopia.

**Key words:** oribatid mites, *Scheloribates* (*Bischeloribates*), *Zygoribatula*, new species, new record, checklist, Ethiopia.

### Introduction

This work is a part of our continuing study of the Ethiopian oribatid mite fauna (e.g., Ermilov *et al.* 2010, 2011, 2012). The present study is based on materials collected during a two-month Russian-Ethiopian expedition in February and March 2012. An annotated checklist of identified oribatid taxa is presented below, and also new records for the Ethiopian fauna are reported. In the course of taxonomic identification, we found two new species of the superfamily Oripodoidea, one belonging to the genus *Scheloribates* Berlese, 1908 (subgenus *Bischeloribates* Mahunka, 1988) (*Scheloribatidae*), and the other to *Zygoribatula* Berlese, 1916 (*Oribatulidae*).

*Bischeloribates* was proposed by Mahunka (1988) with *Bischeloribates heterodactylus* Mahunka, 1988 as the type species. *Bischeloribates* differs from *Scheloribates* by only single main character: leg tarsi with two claws (versus with three claws). In our opinion, the number of leg claws should not be used as unique distinctive character of a genus because we do not consider it an apomorphic character at the genus-level, therefore we support the subgeneric status for *Bischeloribates*, following the concept of Subías (2004, online version 2006). Currently, this subgenus comprises six species, which distributed in the Oriental and Neotropical regions (Subías 2004, online version 2012). Hence, the new species is the first member of *Scheloribates* (*Bischeloribates*), recorded for the Ethiopian region. The main generic characters of the subgenus were presented by Mahunka (1988), and summarized by Balogh and Balogh (1992). The identification key to the known species of *Scheloribates* (*Bischeloribates*) was presented earlier (Balogh & Balogh 2002).

The second genus studied here, *Zygoribatula*, is a large taxon that was proposed by Berlese (1916) with *Oribatula connexa* Berlese, 1904 as the type species. Currently, the genus comprises 95 species, which have cosmopolitan distributions (Subías 2004, online version 2012). Only one