

Article

## Ethiopian oribatid mites (Acari, Oribatida): results of the Joint Russian-Ethiopian Biological Expedition (June 2013)

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### Abstract

The present study is based on oribatid mite material collected during a Russian-Ethiopian expedition in June 2013 from Ethiopia. We have registered 24 species, 20 genera and 16 families—an annotated checklist of identified taxa is presented. *Suctobelbila dentata* is recorded for the first time in the Ethiopian region; *Tectocepheus velatus sarekensis* is recorded for the first time in Ethiopia. A new oppiid species—*Arcoppia* (*Wallworkoppia*) *minima* **sp. nov.**—from litter of a Xerophitic forest is described. It differs from all known species of this subgenus by the medially concave rostrum (versus tripartite in the other species). An identification key to known species of *Arcoppia* (*Wallworkoppia*) is given.

**Key words:** Oribatida, fauna, checklist, new record, new species, *Arcoppia* (*Wallworkoppia*), key, Ethiopia

### Introduction

This work is part of our continuing study of oribatid mites (Acari, Oribatida) in Ethiopia (see, for example: Ermilov *et al.* 2012a, b; Ermilov & Rybalov 2013 a, b). The present study is based on the material collected during a one-month Russian-Ethiopian expedition in June 2013. An annotated checklist of identified oribatid mite taxa is presented.

In the course of taxonomic identification we found a new species of the subgenus *Arcoppia* (*Wallworkoppia*) Subías 1989 (Oppiidae). This subgenus was proposed by Balogh (1983) as the genus *Wallworkella* with *Oppia trimucronata* Wallwork, 1961 as the type species. However, as the name *Wallworkella* was preoccupied by Hammer (1979) (see *Wallworkiella*; both names are devoted to Wallwork, therefore the name *Wallworkella* is erroneous), Subías (Subías & Balogh 1989) proposed the name *Wallworkoppia*. The species of the genus *Wallworkoppia* differ from the species of the genus *Arcoppia* Hammer, 1977 (Hammer 1977) only by the presence of sensilli without developed heads (versus heads developed in *Arcoppia*). In our opinion, the morphology of sensilli is a subgeneric character in Oppiidae, therefore we support Mahunka's opinion (Mahunka 1999) of the subgeneric status of *Wallworkoppia* in the genus *Arcoppia*. The main diagnostic characters of *Arcoppia* (*Wallworkoppia*) are summarized by Balogh (1983), Subías & Balogh (1989) and Mahunka (1999).

At present, the subgenus *Arcoppia* (*Wallworkoppia*) comprises four species that are distributed in the Ethiopian and Neotropical regions (*A.*(*W.*) *directa* Mahunka & Mahunka-Papp, 2007; *A.*(*W.*) *machadoi* (Balogh, 1958); *A.*(*W.*) *cervifer* (Mahunka, 1983); *A.*(*W.*) *trimucronata* (Wallwork,