

Five new species of the genus *Tetra* Keifer (Acari: Eriophyidae: Phyllocoptinae) from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China

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Abstract

Five new species of the genus *Tetra* Keifer from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China are described and illustrated. They are *Tetra tianschanicae* **sp. nov.** on *Sorbus tianschanica* Rupr. (Rosaceae); *Tetra sativae* **sp. nov.** on *Medicago sativa* L. (Fabaceae); *Tetra viciae* **sp. nov.** on *Vicia ceacca* L. (Fabaceae) and *Tetra nitrariae* **sp. nov.** on *Nitraria schoberi* L. (Zygophyllaceae). All eriophyid mites described here are vagrants on the undersurface of host leaves.

Key words: eriophyid mites, taxonomy, Anthocoptini, China

Introduction

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is located in the central part of the Eurasian Continent, on the northwest border of China. It is the largest autonomous region in China, covering 1,664,900 square kilometers. The region has a unique landscape which is called “three mountains surrounding two basins”. These features are, from north to south, Altai Mountains, Junggar Basin, Tianshan Mountains, Tarim Basin and Kunlun Mountains. The Tianshan Mountains, in the middle, divides the autonomous region into two totally different parts, Northern Xinjiang and Southern Xinjiang. Xinjiang has a typical continental climate with a low annual rainfall, long sunshine duration and a large diurnal temperature variation.

Eriophyoid mites are important plant parasites that feed on various plant organs causing symptoms that can sometimes be confused with those due to viruses, nutrient deficiency and physiological disorders (Van Leeuwen *et al.*, 2010). During 2013, field surveys were conducted by Ji-Wei Li in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region for identifying this kind of pests damaging crops and forests. Five species of the genus *Tetra* were found to be new in science.

There are almost 104 *Tetra* species reported worldwide (de Lillo & Amrine, personal communication) and more than 40% (44 species) of *Tetra* species were reported from China (Hong *et al.* 2010). The genus *Tetra* was established by Keifer (1944) based on the type species *Phyllocoptiruta concave* Keifer, 1939 and characterized as: body fusiform; gnathosoma projecting obliquely down; prodorsal shield with frontal lobe, scapular tubercles on or near rear shield margin, scapular setae directed posteriorly; opisthosoma with a wide middorsal longitudinal furrow; all coxal setae present; legs with usual series of setae. In this paper, we describe five new species of the genus *Tetra* from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China.