

New and Little Known Species of *Bipassalozetes* and Some Other Related Genera (Acari: Oribatida) from Russia and Kazakhstan

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Abstract

Oribatid mites belonging to the genera *Bipassalozetes*, *Proteremaeus*, *Oribatula* and *Eporibatula* collected from Russia and Kazakhstan are studied. A new species, *Bipassalozetes pilosus* sp. nov. is described. In addition, six known species, *Bipassalozetes reticulatus* (Mihelčič, 1957), *Bipassalozetes granulatus* (Mihelčič, 1955), *Bipassalozetes lineolatus* (Sitnikova, 1975), *Proteremaeus elongatus* (Rjabinin & Krivolutsky, 1975), *Oribatula elegantissima* Balogh & Mahunka, 1965 and *Eporibatula prominens* Bayartogtokh & Aoki, 1998 are redescribed, with notes on their distributions. The species *Bipassalozetes granulatus* (Mihelčič), *B. reticulatus* (Mihelčič) and *Eporibatula prominens* Bayartogtokh & Aoki are recorded for the first time in the fauna of Kazakhstan, and another species, *Bipassalozetes granulatus* (Mihelčič) is reported for the first time from Russia. Data on geographic distribution of each known species are given.

Key words: Acari, Oribatida, taxonomy, Russia, Kazakhstan

Introduction

The oribatid mite genus *Bipassalozetes* was proposed by Mihelčič (1957a) with *Scutovertex bidactylus* Coggi, 1900 as the type species. Representatives of this genus seem to be relatively rare and xerophilous in habit, and they have been recorded mostly from arid regions of Europe (Strenzke, 1953; Mihelčič, 1955, 1956, 1957a, b, 1966, 1967; Mihelčič & Rain, 1954; Kunst, 1957; Tarman, 1965; Vanek, 1966; Pérez-Iñigo, 1971, 1993; Mahunka, 1977; Luxton, 1990a, b), Africa (Wallwork, 1964; Engelbrecht, 1974; Mahunka, 1987a), North America (Higgins & Woolley, 1962, 1975; Wallwork, 1972; Wallwork *et al.*, 1984) and Asia (Mahunka, 1964; Sitnikova, 1975, 1982; Bayartogtokh & Aoki, 1997).

Bipassalozetes is a small genus of oribatid mites and until the present work the genus comprised of 22 nominal species and two subspecies. Most of the *Bipassalozetes* species seem to be distributed only in restricted areas or are known only from the type localities. On the basis of present knowledge the genus appears to be not represented in the Neotropical and Australian regions.

The diagnostic characters of this genus are considered to be the following: adults small to medium in size (267-491 μm in length); without true lamellae; notogaster with ten pairs of setae, but some of them minute and invisible; three or four pairs of porose areas; four pairs of genital setae; dorsal and ventral surfaces and legs covered with cerotegumental microsculpture; legs bidactylous.

Another genus studied here, *Proteremaeus* is represented by 9 species, and the members of this genus are known only from Asia. Four species are known from Siberia and the Russian Far East (Krivolutsky & Ryabinin, 1975; Behan-Pelletier, 1982; Behan-Pelletier & Ryabinin, 1991). Two other species have been described from Pakistan, and the remaining three species were found in Mongolia (Piffel, 1965; Hammer, 1977; Golosova, 1983; Bayartogtokh, 2000).

Two other genera, *Oribatula* and *Eporibatula* are closely related to each other, and the former genus is one of the largest groups of oribatid mites being represented by more than 80 species, which distributed throughout the world. The second genus, *Eporibatula* is relatively small in species richness, and known with 10 species, which found