



New Uropodina (Acari: Mesostigmata) from California, USA

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Abstract

Jedediella horneri **gen. nov.**, **sp. nov.** is described on the basis of two females and four males collected in California, USA. The new genus is unusual among uropodine mites by the shape and length of chelicerae. A previously described species of uropodine of uncertain taxonomic placement, *Discourella sellnicki* Hirschmann & Zirngiebl-Nicol, 1969, is transferred to the new genus as *Jedediella sellnicki* (Hirschmann & Zirngiebl-Nicol, 1969) **comb. nov.** Two new *Trachytes* species (*T. axe* **sp. nov.** and *T. californica* **sp. nov.**) are described and illustrated accompanied with a new key and notes to the *Trachytes* species of North America.

Key words: Uropodina, new genus, new species, taxonomy, California

Introduction

Uropodine mites are distributed all over the world, and belong to one of the most important and abundant soil inhabiting groups of mesostigmatid mites. Their maximum diversity is in tropical rain forests (Lindquist *et al.*, 2009). However the European uropodine fauna is also rich, with more than 100 species recorded from several extensively-studied countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, and Germany (Wiśniewski, 1993; Mašán, 2001; Kontschán, 2008). In contrast, the Uropodina of North America are scarcely known, with fewer than 250 species recorded (Farrier & Hennessey, 1996). In examining the unsorted material from soil, moss and leaf-litter in California deposited in the Institute of Soil Biology (České Budějovice, Czech Republic) we found several new and interesting species of Uropodina, which are described here.

Material and methods

Specimens were cleared in lactic acid and drawn with the aid of a drawing tube. All specimens examined are stored in alcohol and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Geneva (MHNG), in the Soil Zoology Collections of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (HNHM) and the Biology Centre AS CR, Institute of Soil Biology, České Budějovice (ISB). Abbreviations: h1–h4 hypostomal setae, St1–St6 sternal setae.

Jedediella **gen. nov.**

Type species *Jedediella horneri* **sp. nov.**

Diagnosis. Idiosoma oval, dorsally domed and strongly sclerotised. Dorsal and marginal shields completely separated, all dorsal setae needle-like. Surface of dorsal and ventral shields smooth, caudal region of dorsal shield bearing a large depression. Genital shield of female ornamented by oval pits. Peritremes L-shaped. Leg I without ambulacral claws, and with smooth setae. Ventral surface of hypostome with small, spine-like structures in the deu-