

A new genus and five new species of Eriophyoidea (Prostigmata) associated with palm trees from Brazilian Amazon¹

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Abstract

A new genus and five new species of eriophyoid mites associated with native palm trees (Arecaceae) are described from Brazilian Amazon. The new genus and two new species are in the family Eriophyidae: *Euterpia fissa* n. gen. & n. sp. from *Euterpe precatória* and *Notostrix spinula* n. sp. from *Mauritia flexuosa*. Three new species belong to the family Phytoptidae: *Palmiphytoptus barbosa* n. sp. from *Astrocaryum acaule*; *Propilus alternatus* n. sp. from *Mauritia flexuosa* and *Propilus tavaresi* n. sp. from *Elaeis oleifera*.

Key words: Acari, Prostigmata, Arecaceae, plant feeding mites, South America, taxonomy

Introduction

There is a large diversity of palm trees (Arecaceae) in tropical regions and several of them are of socio-economical importance. The production area of palm trees is increasing substantially in Brazil. Eriophyoid mites are strictly phytophagous and many species reach pest status in agricultural crops around the world (Lindquist *et al.* 1996). Knowledge on the eriophyoid mite fauna associated with palms can be useful in their future recognition in commercial palm crops and, in this way, facilitate understanding possible alterations in agroecosystems which could favour a mite species in such a way that it became a pest. The

1. This paper was started during development of a thesis submitted by the senior author to the University of São Paulo, Piracicaba, Brazil, advised by Prof. Gilberto J. de Moraes, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Ph.D degree.