

***Platysetosus occultus* gen. nov., sp. nov., a new genus and species of mite from Tasmania (Acari: Uropodina)**

M. DYLEWSKA¹, J. BŁOSZYK^{1,3} & R. B. HALLIDAY²

¹Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Institute of Environmental Biology, A. Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89, 61-614 Poznań, Poland. E-mail bloszyk@amu.edu.pl

²CSIRO Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia. E-mail Bruce.Halliday@csiro.au

³Natural Science Collection, Faculty of Biology A. Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89, 61-614 Poznań, Poland

Abstract

A new endemic Australian genus *Platysetosus* **gen. nov.** (Acari: Uropodina: Uropodoidea) from Tasmania and its type species *Platysetosus occultus* **sp. nov.** are described and figured. *Platysetosus* is very distinctive, and its relationship to other genera of Uropodina is not clear.

Key words: Acari, Uropodina, *Platysetosus*, Tasmania, endemism

Introduction

Uropodine mites are very abundant and diverse in Australia, especially in rainforest, but the fauna is very poorly known, and has never been studied in a systematic way. This paper is part of a series that is intended to address that deficiency in knowledge. Previous papers in the series have confirmed the existence of distinctive taxa in the Australian Uropodina, clarified or corrected the taxonomic placement of known taxa, and described new genera and species where necessary to draw attention to this little-known fauna (Athias-Binche & Błoszyk, 1988; Błoszyk & Halliday, 1995, 2000; Błoszyk *et al.*, 2005).

Within the Australian region, Tasmania is particularly interesting from a faunistic and zoogeographical point of view, as fragments of rainforests have remained there undisturbed. In this type of habitat, one can expect many endemic taxa of invertebrates, including mites. This has been confirmed by earlier observations (Banks, 1916; Wiśniewski & Hirschmann, 1993; Błoszyk & Halliday, 1995, 2000). The distinctive nature of the Tasmanian uropodine fauna is emphasised by the fact that no species known from Tasmania has been recorded on the Australian mainland.