



## Three new species of mites in the genus *Castriidinychus* Hirschmann from Tasmania (Acari: Uropodidae)

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### Abstract

Three new endemic Tasmanian species of mites in the genus *Castriidinychus* Hirschmann are described (Acari: Uropodidae). These species are clearly different from those previously described from the Australian mainland. *Castriidinychus tasmanicus* **sp. nov.** was found at a number of localities in northern and western Tasmania, and *C. longisetosus* **sp. nov.** was more frequent in the east. The rarest species, *C. robynae* **sp. nov.** was recorded only at three localities in the southeastern part of the island. The confused taxonomic history of the genus *Castriidinychus* is reviewed and clarified.

**Key words:** Acari, Uropodina, *Castriidinychus*, Australia, Tasmania

### Introduction

The world fauna of the mite Suborder Uropodina (Order Mesostigmata) includes more than 2,000 described species (Wiśniewski & Hirschmann 1993). Until recently, only about 70 species were recorded from Australia (Halliday 1998), and many of those were very inadequately described. This paper continues a series whose objective is to better document the Australian fauna of Uropodina, and to provide information that can be included in a future world-wide synthesis of the group. Previous papers in this series were Athias-Binche & Błoszyk (1988), Błoszyk & Halliday (1995, 2000), Błoszyk *et al.* (2004, 2008) and Dylewska *et al.* (2006). In the present study we examine the genus *Castriidinychus* Hirschmann 1973 (Uropodidae), on the basis of collections from a large-scale survey of the invertebrates of Tasmanian rainforests (Coy *et al.* 1993).

The genus *Castriidinychus* was described by Hirschmann (1973b), who transferred four species from *Uroobovella* Berlese 1903 into the new genus — *U. castrii* Hirschmann 1972, *U. dentata* Hirschmann 1972, *U. ditricha* Hirschmann & Zirngiebl-Nicol 1972 and *U. marginalis* Hirschmann & Zirngiebl-Nicol 1972, all of which were described from Chile. Hirschmann (1973b) also mentioned a further 12 new species of *Castriidinychus*, without giving full descriptions, but the names of these species were made available by his listing of comparative data on the relative lengths of the movable and fixed digits of the chelicera. Further morphological information on all 16 species is given in the keys in Hirschmann (1973c). Seven of the new species from Chile and Argentina are fully described in Hirschmann (1973d) (*C. castriisimilis*, *C. dentatoides*, *C. dictyooides*, *C. eupunctatosimilis*, *C. eupunctatus*, *C. similidentatus*, *C. topali*), and the other five from Chile in Hirschmann (1973e) (*C. anguinus*, *C. flavoooides*, *C. flavus*, *C. maeandralis*, *C. paucistructurus*). The names of several of these species were originally mentioned as *nomina nuda* in Hirschmann (1973a), but they were made available in later papers. Hirschmann (1979a) added *Uropoda cribraria* Berlese 1888 (Paraguay) to the genus, Hirschmann (1984) compared the protonymphs of *C. castrii* and *C. dentatus*, and Wiśniewski & Hirschmann (1993) included the genus in a worldwide catalogue of the Uropodina. The total number of