



New spider mite genus (Prostigmata: Tetranychidae) from Australia & New Zealand, with a discussion of *Yezonychus* Ehara

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Abstract

The concept of *Yezonychus* Ehara is revised. A new genus, *Neonidulus*, is erected to accommodate four species: *N. cornus* (Pritchard & Baker), *N. falsicornus* (Zhang & Martin) and *N. brevopilus* (Zhang & Martin) from New Zealand, and a new species described from the central east coast of Australia, *N. tereotus*.

Key words: *Rigiotetranychus*, *Schizotetranychus*, split empodia, *Stigmaeopsis*, Tetranychini, *Tribolonychus*, web nest, *Yunonychus*

Introduction

Zhang & Martin (2001) were prompted to revise the concept of the genus *Yezonychus* Ehara 1978 following the discovery of several species of *Schizotetranychus*-like spider mites in New Zealand. In doing so, Zhang & Martin (2001) moved *Schizotetranychus cornus* Pritchard & Baker to *Yezonychus*, described two new species, *Y. falsicornus* and *Y. brevopilus*, and erected a new genus *Tribolonychus* to accommodate a third new species, *T. collyerae*.

The collection of a new species from Australia, *Neonidulus tereotus* **sp. nov.**, has called into question the placement of the New Zealand taxa within *Yezonychus* by Zhang & Martin (2001), prompting another revision of the concept of the genus and the Australasian species placed within it. Zhang & Martin (2001) noted that the New Zealand taxa were distinct from the type species of *Yezonychus*, *Y. sapporensis*, but rather than create a new name, they altered the diagnosis to accommodate the New Zealand species. Based on morphological differences in the empodia, we erect a new genus, *Neonidulus* gen. nov., to accommodate the New Zealand species previously placed in *Yezonychus* by Zhang & Martin (2001), and *N. tereotus* **sp. nov.** from Australia.

Material and methods

Mites were collected and mounted directly from field collected samples. All measurements are given in micrometers as a range. Setae were measured from the centre of the setal base to the tip of the seta; distances between setae were measured as the distance from the edge of one setal base to the other (i.e. the minimum distance between two setal bases); the distance from setae *v*2 to *h*2 is measured along the body midline. Leg setal numbers are written as the total number of setae followed by number of sensory setae (solenidia + eupathidia) in parentheses; setal numbers written in bold indicate the most commonly occurring number.