



A new *Aceria* species (Acari: Eriophyoidea) on *Echinops ritro* L. subsp. *ruthenicus* (M.Bieb.) Nyman (Asteraceae) from Serbia and a supplement to the original description of *Aceria brevicincta* (Nalepa 1898)

BILJANA VIDOVIĆ

Department of Entomology and Agricultural Zoology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, Nemanjina 6, 11080 Belgrade – Zemun, Serbia. E-mail: magud@agrif.bg.ac.rs

Abstract

A new species of eriophyoid mite, *Aceria banatica* n. sp. inhabiting *Echinops ritro* L. subsp. *ruthenicus* (M.Bieb.) Nyman has been described from Serbia. A comparison of characters between *A. banatica* n. sp. and *Aceria echinopsi* Boczek and Nuzzaci 1988, the only other species known from *Echinops* sp., is given. A supplementary description of *Aceria brevicincta* (Nalepa 1898) found on *Jurinea mollis* (L.) Rchb. in Serbia is included along with a comparison of taxonomic characters of this population with previously described specimens from Hungary and the poor original description from Austria.

Key words: Eriophyoidea, eriophyoid mites, new species, Cardueae

Introduction

The plant genera *Echinops* and *Jurinea* belong to the monophyletic tribe *Cardueae* of the family Asteraceae (Bekir *et al.* 2009). *Echinops* includes about 120 species of plants commonly known as globe thistles. They are native to Eastern Europe, Central Asia and south of the mountains of tropical Africa (Mabberley 1998). *Jurinea* is a genus of about 200 species. Its native distribution specifically involves Central Asia, Iran, Turkey and the Mediterranean basin (Susanna *et al.* 2006). Five *Echinops* species and only *Jurinea mollis* (L.) Rchb. form part of the flora of Serbia (Gajić 1975).

The taxonomically difficult eriophyoid mite genus *Aceria* includes over 900 valid species (Amrine *et al.* 2003). According to the world catalogue (Amrine and Stasny 1994), Fauna Europaea (de Lillo 2004) and data published by de Lillo *et al.* (2003), a total of 23 *Aceria* species have been recorded on Carduae plants, 8 of which are known in Serbia (Petanović and Stanković 1999; Petanović *et al.* 2000). Most of the *Aceria* spp. inhabiting Carduae plant taxa are poorly known and described.

From *Echinops* spp. and *Jurinea* spp., only two eriophyoid species have been described to date in the world: *Aceria echinopsi* Boczek and Nuzzaci 1988 from *Echinops* sp. and *Aceria brevicincta* (Nalepa 1898) from *Jurinea mollis*.

Aceria echinopsi was described from samples collected in Bu Tuil near Taruna, Libya and has not been recorded since. This mite species is gall-making and induces subspherical galls with cells inside, along the margins of leaves. *Aceria brevicincta* was named as *Eriophyes brevicinctus* for the first time by Nalepa (1898) from samples collected in Baden, Austria, and later described and illustrated by the same author (Nalepa 1900). It is also a gall-making mite and was observed causing such symptoms on leaves. Although the genus *Aceria* was established by Keifer (1944), this species was only then reassigned by Farkas (1965). Until now, it has also been recorded in Hungary (Moesz 1938; Rainiss 1940; Balas 1941 loc.cit. Ripka 2007; Farkas 1965; Farkas 1966), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Baudys 1941) and Serbia (Petanović & Stanković 1999). The original description of *A. brevicincta* by Nalepa (1898 and 1900) does not correspond to the currently accepted standard for morphometric descriptions as published by de Lillo *et al.* (2010). For this reason, the present paper provides a supplementary morphological description of the species. A new eriophyoid species found on *Echinops ritro* L. subsp. *ruthenicus* is also presented.