



Ontogeny and morphological diversity in immature mites: Preface to Part V with a summary of contributions so far

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It is my great pleasure to present to you the fifth part in this series of special volumes on mite ontogeny and morphological diversity (Zhang *et al.* 2018, 2019, 1920a,b). Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, our ontogeny enthusiasts managed to continue their research and contributed eight papers to this volume, with one paper on Mesostigmata (Zhang *et al.* 2021), five papers on Oribatida (Bayartogtokh *et al.* 2021a,b; Seniczak, S., Ivan, Marquardt & Seniczak, A. 2021a,b; Seniczak, A. & Seniczak, S. 2021) and two papers on Trombidiformes (Negm & Gotoh 2021; Xu & Zhang 2021).

Prior to the start of this series, two journals (*Systematic & Applied Acarology*; *Zootaxa*) each published about 28% of the mite ontogenetic papers from 2015 to 2017 (Liu & Zhang 2018). Since December 2018, five volumes with a total of 47 papers in 1,077 pages were published in this series in just 36 months, and 41 of these reported on mite ontogeny (Table 1); in comparison, *Systematic & Applied Acarology* published only 22 papers on mite morphological ontogeny during the same period. Among the 41 papers on morphological ontogeny in these five volumes in *Zootaxa*, 20 papers (or 48.8%) are on Sarcoptiformes, 15 (or 34.1%) are on Trombidiformes, and only 7 (17.1%) are on Mesostigmata (Table 1); these papers reported on morphological ontogenies of 113 species. Among the 18 papers on oribatid ontogenies, the team of Stanisław Seniczak and Anna Seniczak (plus other collaborators sometimes) co-authored 12 (or 66.7%) (Table 1). It is commendable that this team also co-authored 10 of 15 papers on mite ontogenies in *Systematic & Applied Acarology* in 2018 (Zhang 2019), and 12 of 22 papers from 2019 to 2021 (Seniczak, A., Seniczak, S. & Jordal 2019; Seniczak, A. & Seniczak, S. 2019, 2020a,b,c; 2021; Seniczak, S., Ivan, Kaczmarek & Seniczak, A. 2020, 2021; Seniczak, S., Ivan & Seniczak, A. 2019; 2020; Seniczak, S., Kaczmarek & Seniczak, A. 2021; Seniczak, S., Seniczak, A., Kaczmarek, Marquardt & Jangazieva 2020).

TABLE 1. The numbers of papers (species) in the five special volumes on “Ontogeny and morphological diversity in immature mites” published in *Zootaxa* from 2018 to 2021.

Parts	Mesostigmata	Sarcoptiformes		Trombidiformes	Others	Total	References
		Oribatida	Astigmata				
I	2 (2)	3 (3)	0	4 (5)	2	11 (10)	Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2018)
II	1 (1)	5 (5)	0	3 (6)	1	10 (12)	Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2019)
III	2 (3)	3 (3)	1 (1)	2(2)	1	9 (9)	Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2020b)
IV	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (70)	1	8 (74)	Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2020a)
V	1 (1)	5 (5)	0	2 (2)	1	9 (8)	Fuangularworn <i>et al.</i> (2021)
Total	7 (8)	18 (18)	2 (2)	14 (85)	6	47 (113)	

Due to the continued interest in this series, we will publish part 6 in mid-2022. Those who are interested in submitting papers should contact me for more information.

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