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Checklist of ptyctimous mites (Acari, Oribatida) of New Zealand with descriptions of three new species

Wojciech NIEDBAŁA¹ and Sergey G. ERMILOV²*

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¹ Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland; wojciech.niedbala@amu.edu.pl
² Tyumen State University, Tyumen, Russia; ermilovacari@yahoo.ru (*Corresponding author)

ABSTRACT — An annotated checklist of ptyctimous mites of New Zealand is provided; it includes 74 species, 12 genera and four families. Two new species, Austrophthiracarus parapulchellus Niedbala n. sp. and Notophthiracarus minorae Niedbala n. sp., are described from litter in Pinus radiata plantation of the North Island, and one new species, Notophthiracarus otagoensis Niedbala n. sp., is described from soil and debris under Dracophyllum muscoides cushions of the South Island.

KEYWORDS — mites; fauna; morphology; systematics; Australasian region

INTRODUCTION

This work is a part of a continuing study of the New Zealand oribatid mite fauna based on material collected by Dr. Maria A. Minor (Ermilov and Minor 2015 a-d, Ermilov et al. 2015), and includes data on ptyctimous mites. The goals of the paper are to present data on the taxonomic identification and specific localities of registered taxa, to provide checklist of known ptyctimous mites from New Zealand and to describe three new species: Austrophthiracarus parapulchellus Niedbala n. sp., Notophthiracarus minorae Niedbala n. sp. and N. otagoensis Niedbala n. sp. Ptyctimous mites of New Zealand are little known (Niedbala 1993; 2000; 2006) even if more actively recently studied (e.g. Liu and Zhang 2013a, 2014a, 2015a); therefore this paper contributes to their faunistic and taxonomic knowledge.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The mites were cleared in lactic acid and mounted to temporary cavity slides with glycerol for the duration of the study. Body measurements are presented in micrometers. Length of the body setae was measured in lateral aspect. Formulas for leg setation are given in parentheses according to the sequence trochanter-femur-genu-tibia-tarsus. Formulas for leg solenidia are given in square brackets according to the sequence genu-tibia-tarsus. The terminology follows Niedbala (2000). List of collecting sites in New Zealand:


NZ 2 – New Zealand, North Island, Manawatu-Wanganui region, 39°45’37.218”S, 175°14’24.759”E, 288 m a.s.l., Pinus radiata plantation (pines 23 yrs...

**RESULTS**

**Cheklist of Ptyctimous mites of New Zealand**

We herein registered eight species, seven genera and four families of ptyctimous mites collected by Dr. Maria A. Minor. These species are followed by “*” in the checklist of New Zealand pyctimous mites presented. This fauna presently includes 74 species, 12 genera and four families.

**Oribotritiidae**

— *Indotritia (Zaeotritia) aotearoana* Ramsay, 1966
— *Oribotritia bilaminae* Liu and Zhang, 2013
— *Oribotritia brevis* Niedbała and Colloff, 1997
— *Oribotritia contortula* Niedbała, 1993*. Localities: NZ 3 (1 ex.), NZ 4 (4 ex.)
— *Oribotritia incognita* Niedbała, 2000
— *Oribotritia mangamuka* Liu and Zhang, 2013b
— *Oribotritia paranigotina* Niedbała, 2006
— *Oribotritia teretis* Niedbała, 1993
— *Sabacarus corneri* Ramsay and Sheals, 1969

**Euphthiracaridae**

— *Acrotritia vestita* (Berlese, 1913)*. Localities: NZ 2 (1 ex.), NZ 3 (1 ex.), NZ 4 (1 ex.)
— *Microtritia contraaria* Niedbała, 1993
— *Microtritia fusa* Niedbała, 2000
— *Microtritia novazealandiensis* Niedbała, 2006. Localities: NZ 2 (8 ex.), NZ 3 (2 ex.)
— *Microtritia stria* Liu and Zhang, 2014a

**Steganacaridae**

— *Arthropthiracarus heterotrichus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Arthropthiracarus minimus* Liu and Zhang, 2015c
— *Atropacarus (Atropacarus) controversus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Atropacarus (Atropacarus) niedbalai* Liu and Zhang, 2013a
— *Austrophthiracarus aureus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Austrophthiracarus bah* Liu and Zhang, 2015a
— *Austrophthiracarus cronadun* Liu and Zhang, 2013d
— *Austrophthiracarus daimonios* Niedbała, 2000
— *Austrophthiracarus hiore* Liu and Zhang, 2014c
— *Austrophthiracarus kariol* Liu and Zhang, 2014d
— *Austrophthiracarus kirikiri* Liu and Zhang, 2015a
— *Austrophthiracarus matuku* Liu and Zhang, 2014d
— *Austrophthiracarus neotrichus* (Wallwork, 1966)
— *Austrophthiracarus notoporosus* Liu and Zhang, 2014d
— *Austrophthiracarus pulchellus* Niedbała, 1993
— *Austrophthiracarus tawhai* Liu and Zhang, 2013d
— *Austrophthiracarus parapulchellus* Niedbała *n. sp.* Localities: NZ 2 (2 ex.)
— *Austrophthiracarus waiere* Liu and Zhang, 2015a
— *Hoplophthiracarus bisulcus* (Niedbała, 1993)*. Localities: NZ 2 (14 ex.), NZ 4 (3 ex.)
— *Hoplophthiracarus liovis* Niedbała, 2000
— *Plonaphacarus aitu* Liu and Zhang, 2015c
— *Plonaphacaraus dikros* Niedbała, 2000
— *Plonaphacaraus insolens* Niedbała, 2000

**Phthiracaridae**

— *Notophthiracarus aquilus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus ater* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus atratus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus australis* Ramsay, 1966
— *Notophthiracarus brachys* Niedbała, 2006
— *Notophthiracarus calignosus* Niedbała, 1989
— *Notophthiracarus chatham* Liu et Zhang, 2015b
— *Notophthiracarus claviger* Niedbała, 1993
— *Notophthiracarus conspicuus* Niedbała, 1989
— *Notophthiracarus dugdalei* Liu and Zhang, 2013c
— *Notophthiracarus fucundus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus incomparabilis* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus matatapitu* Liu and Zhang, 2013c
— *Notophthiracarus mauru* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus minorae* Niedbała *n. sp.* Localities: NZ 2 (2 ex.)
— *Notophthiracarus motumuka* Liu and Zhang, 2014b
— *Notophthiracarus otagoensis* Niedbała *n. sp.* Localities: NZ 1 (140 ex.)
— *Notophthiracarus paracapillatus* Niedbała, 2006
— *Notophthiracarus perlucundus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus quietus* Niedbała, 1989
— *Notophthiracarus repostus* Niedbała, 1989
— *Notophthiracarus rimi* Liu and Zhang, 2014b
— *Notophthiracarus rotatensis* Niedbała, 2006
— *Notophthiracarus sensifus* Liu and Zhang, 2015b
— *Notophthiracarus sigifurcatus* Liu and Zhang, 2015b
— *Notophthiracarus tamaki* Liu and Zhang, 2014b
— *Notophthiracarus tripartitus* Niedbała, 1989
— *Notophthiracarus uncinulus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus unicarinatus* Niedbała, 2000
— *Notophthiracarus whakau* Liu and Zhang, 2013c
— *Phthiracarus anonymus* Grandjean, 1933*.
— *Phthiracarus banksi* Niedbała, 1987
— *Phthiracarus hikurangi* Liu and Zhang, 2013e
— *Phthiracarus inflatus* Niedbała, 1994
— *Phthiracarus longisensillus* Liu and Zhang, 2013e
— *Phthiracarus pellucidus* Ramsay, 1966

**DESCRIPTIONS**

*Austrophthiracarus parapulchellus* Niedbała n.sp.  
(Figure 1)

Measurement of holotype — Prodorsum: length 273, width 197, height 116. Setae of prodorsum: rostral 40, lamellar 13, sensilli 35. Notogaster: length 520, width 369, height 333. Setae of notogaster: \(c_1\) 177, \(c_2\) 152, \(c_3\) 45, \(h_1\) and \(ps_1\) 91. Genitoaggenital plate 131 *×* 94, anoadanal plate 190 *×* 114.


Prodorsum — With well discernible long sigillar fields. Lateral carinae and posterior furrows absent. Sensilli short, with narrow pedicel and globular, roughened head. Interlamellar and exobothridial setae vestigial, lamellar setae minute, rostral setae semierect, roughened.

Notogaster — With neotrichy of notogastral setae; 19 pairs of rigid, slightly recurved setae, covered with small spines in distal half. Setae \(c_3\) about once shorter than other setae of row \(c\). Additional setae, one in rows \(h\) and three in row \(ps\). Setae \(c_1\) and \(c_3\) situated near anterior margin, setae \(c_2\) far from margin. One of posterior setae of row \(ps\) (\(ps_3\)) situated above a row. Vestigial setae \(f_1\) situated posterior of \(h_1\) setae. Two pairs of lyrifissures \(ia\) and \(im\) present.

Ventral region — Setae \(h\) of mentum vestigial. Arrangement of genital setae: \(9(4+5): 0\). With neotrichy of anal setae. Anoadanal plate with 6 pairs of setae, 2 anal and 4 adanal. Two posterior adanal setae longer than anal setae, two anterior adanal setae shortest.

Chaetome of legs — Complete. Formulas of leg setation and solenidia: I \(1(4-2-5-17)\) [2-1-3], II \(1(3-2-3-12)\) [1-1-2], III \(2-2-1-2-10\) [1-1-0], IV \(2(1-1-2-10)\) [0-1-0]. Setae \(d\) on femora I long, situated almost in the middle of article.


Type deposition — The holotype (ethanol) is deposited in the New Zealand National Arthropod Collection, Auckland, New Zealand; paratype (ethanol) is deposited in the collection of the Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland.

Etymology — The prefix *para* is Latin meaning “near” and refers to the similarity of new species with *Austrophthiracarus pulchellus* Niedbała, 1993.

Comparison — The new species is morphologically very similar to *Austrophthiracarus pulchellus* Niedbała, 1993 (see Niedbała 1993). It is distinguishable from the latter by setae \(c_3\) shorter than other setae of row \(c\) (versus not shorter), presence of 19 pairs of notogastral setae (versus 18 pairs), vestigial setae of subcapitular mentum (versus well developed), presence of complete chaetome of femora I (versus absence of setae \(v\)).

*Notophthiracarus minorae* Niedbała n. sp.  
(Figure 2)

Measurement of holotype — Prodorsum: length 363, width 247, height 141. Setae of prodorsum: rostral 106, lamellar 177, interlamellar 253, sensilli 50, exobothridial 51. Notogaster: length 717, width 505, height 515. Setae of notogaster: \(c_1\) 177, \(c_2\) 152, \(c_3\) 45,
FIGURE 1: Austrophthiracarus parapulchellus Niedbała n. sp. (holotype): A – prodorsum, dorsal view; B – prodorsum, lateral view; C – opisthosoma, lateral view; D – mentum of subcapitulum; E – left genito-agenital and anoanal plates; F – trochanter and femur of leg I. Scale bars (A-C, E) 100 µm, scale bars (D, F) 50 µm.
FIGURE 2: Notophthiracarus minorae Niedbala n. sp. (holotype): A – prodorsum, dorsal view; B – prodorsum, lateral view; C – opisthosoma, lateral view; D – mentum of subcapitulum; E – right genitoaggenital plate; F – right anoanal plate; G – left anoanal plate; H – trochanter and femur of leg I. Scale bar 100 µm.
Niedbała W. and Ermilov S.G.  c1/c1-d1=0.9, d1 172, e1 185, h1 253, h3 53, pS1 215, pS2 126, pS3 71, pS4 63. Genitoaggenital plate 172 × 146, anoanodal plate 252 × 111.


Integument — Colour dark brown, almost black. Body surface punctated.

Prodorsum — With narrow sigillar fields well visible. Lateral carinae and posterior furrows absent. Sensilli short, with narrow pedicle and fusiform, rounded, roughened head. Interlamellar and lamellar setae very long, rigid, erect, bent backwards, tapering, covered with spines in distal half, similar to dorsal notogastral setae. Rostral setae inwards, tapering, covered with spines in distal half, and lamellar setae very long, rigid, erect, bent back-fusiform, rounded, roughened head. Interlamellar seta short, with narrow pedicel and visible. Lateral carinae and posterior furrows absent.

Notogaster — With 15 pairs of tapering setae, rigid covered with small spines in distal half, dorsal setae considerably longer (but c1 slightly shorter than distance between c1-d1) than laterals. Setae c1-c3 remote from anterior margin, setae c2 more than other. Vestigial setae f1 situated anterior of setae h1. Lyrifissures ia and im present.

Ventral region — Setae h of mentum slightly shorter than distance between them (h/h-h=0.8). Genitoaggenital plates with 9 pairs of unusual long setae with formula: 4: 5. Anoanodal plates with 5 pairs of setae, long, filiform, smooth, except minute setae ad3.

Chaetome of legs — Complete. Formulas of leg setation and solenidia: I (1-4-2-5-17) [2-1-3], II (1-3-2-3-12) [1-1-2], III (2-2-1-2-10) [1-1-0], IV (2-1-1-2-10) [0-1-0]. Setae d on femora I long and remote from anterior margin.


Type deposition — The holotype (ethanol) is deposited in the New Zealand National Arthropod Collection, Auckland, New Zealand; paratype (ethanol) is deposited in the collection of the Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland.

Etymology — The specific name is dedicated to the well-known soil zoologist and ecologist Dr. Maria A. Minor (Institute of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, New Zealand).

Comparison — Three similar species are known from the Australasian Region, by the presence of long, similar in shape interlamellar and lamellar setae, very short, globular sensilli and setae ad3 of anoanodal plates minute. The most similar is species *Notophthiracarus calugarae* Niedbala, 1987 from Victoria State of Australia (see Niedbala 1987) but it is distinguishable by the shape of rostral setae, very short, thick, rough, location of f1 setae posterior of h1 setae, setae h of mentum longer than distance between them, and incomplete chaetome of femora of legs I. Both other similar species originate from South Island of New Zealand. *Notophthiracarus ater* Niedbala, 2000 is distinguishable by the presence of vestigial exobothridial setae, vesti-gial setae f1 situated posterior of h1 setae, setae h of mentum longer than distance between them, and especially by longer ad3 setae (almost half of length of anal setae). *Notophthiracarus fecundus* Niedbala, 2000 is distinguishable by the slightly shorter dor-sal, notogastral setae, setae h of mentum longer than distance between them, and also by setae f1 situated posterior of h1 setae and especially by longer ad3 setae (almost half the length of anal setae).

*Notophthiracarus otogoensis* Niedbala n. sp. (Figure 3)


FIGURE 3: *Notophthiracarus otagoensis* Niedbala n. sp. (holotype): A – prodorsum, dorsal view; B – prodorsum, lateral view; C – sensillus, lateral view; D – mentum of subcapitulum; E – opisthosoma, lateral view; F – left genitoaggenital plate; G – left anoanal plate; H – trochanter and femur of leg I. Scale bars (A, B, D-H) 100 \( \mu m \), scale bars (C) 25 \( \mu m \).
Integument — Colour brown. Microsculpture of integument punctuated, only anterior part of prodorsum slightly foveolate.

Prodorsum — With posterior furrows and sigillar fields feebly marked. Lateral carinae well marked. Sensilli short, more or less regular club-like with head covered with small spines. Interlamellar setae rigid, erect covered with small spines in whole length, similar to notogastral setae. Lamellar setae spiniform, smooth. Rostral setae longer, spiniform, rough. Exobothridial setae formed like a needle similar in length to sensilli; \( \text{in} > \text{ro} > \text{ex} > \text{ss} > \text{le} \).

Notogaster — With 15 pairs of medium size, \( c_1 > c_1d_1 \), but other setae shorter. Setae rigid covered with small spines in whole length. Setae \( c_3 \) situated close to anterior margin, setae \( c_1 \) slightly remote, setae \( c_2 \) far from anterior margin. Vestigial setae \( f_1 \) situated posteriorly of \( h_1 \) setae. Three pairs of lyrifissures \( (ia, im, ips) \) present.

Ventral region — Setae \( h \) of mentum longer than distance between them. Arrangement of genital setae 4: 5. Anoanal plates with 5 pairs of flexible setae, adanal setae ciliated and longer than rough anal setae.

Chaetome of legs — Complete. Formulas of leg setation and solenidia: I (1-4-2-5-11) [2-1-3], II (1-3-2-3-12) [1-1-2], III (2-2-1-2-10) [1-1-0], IV (2-1-1-2-10) [0-1-0]. Setae \( d \) on femora I long, considerably remote from distal end of article.


Type deposition — The holotype (ethanol) and two paratypes are deposited in the New Zealand National Arthropod Collection, Auckland, New Zealand; 137 paratypes (ethanol) are deposited in the collection of the Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland.

Etymology — The specific epithet refers to the Central Otago Region of South Island.

Comparison — The new species is characterized by the presence of long \( ad_3 \) setae of anoanal plate, longer than anal setae. Some species from the Australasian region with these long setae have a long sensillus without a rounded head. The similar species are: Notophthiracarus hammeni Niedbala, 1987 from New South Wales (see Niedbala 1987), N. abstemius Niedbala and Colloff, 1997 (see Niedbala and Colloff 1997). Notophthiracarus hammeni has rigid and longer rostral setae, absence of lateral carinae of prodorsum and lyrifissures \( ips \) of notogaster. Notophthiracarus abstemius has adanal setae \( ad_3 \) slightly shorter than anal setae, setae \( d \) of femora I situated in proximal half of article, vestigial setae \( f_1 \) situated anterior of setae \( h_1 \) and lateral carinae of prodorsum and lyrifissures \( ips \) absent.

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