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Additions to the oribatid mite fauna of the Caribbean, with a description of a new species of *Epidamaeus* (Acari, Oribatida, Damaeidae)

Sergey G. Ermilov and Harry Smit

(Received 21 November 2016; accepted 01 March 2017; published online 04 July 2017; edited by Ekaterina Sidorchuck)

ABSTRACT — A list of identified oribatid mite taxa (Acari, Oribatida) from the Caribbean (mostly Lesser Antilles) partly based on a collection of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, The Netherlands), including 84 species from 64 genera and 35 families, is presented; of these, *Grandjeania bicaudata*, *Scheloribates* (*Scheloribates*) *milleri*, *Protoribates oblongus*, and *Orthogalumna saeva* are recorded in the Neotropical region for the first time. A new species of *Epidamaeus* from the Bahamas is described; *E. bahamensis* n. sp. differs from *E. flagelloides* Norton, 1979 by the morphology of notogastral setae, prodorsal tubercles *Dp* and parastigmatic tubercles *Sa*, and the absence of prodorsal tubercles *Bp*. Moreover, a new combination, *Dyobelba palaciosi* (Iglesias and Guzmán, 2012) n. comb., is proposed.

KEYWORDS — mites; fauna; list of taxa; record; new species; morphology; systematics; Neotropical region

ZOObANK — 47CBA113-F86D-4E9C-B49F-70A6D9F9A9D7

INTRODUCTION

The oribatid mite fauna (Acari, Oribatida) of small islands of the Caribbean (for example, Lesser Antilles, Bahamas) is poorly known (e.g. Willmann 1936; Mahunka 1978, 1985a, b, 1998).

This work is the final report (see Ermilov 2016a, b) of our study of oribatids from the Caribbean (mostly Lesser Antilles) based on previously unstudied material from the collections of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands. The primary goal is to present a list and new findings of identified taxa.

A second goal is to describe and illustrate a new species of the genus *Epidamaeus* Bulanova-Zachvatkina, 1957 of the family Damaeidae—*E. bahamensis* n. sp. At present, this genus comprises about 80 species, which are distributed in the Holartic, Neotropical and Oriental regions. The main generic characteristics were summarized by Miko (2006).

In addition, the systematic placement of one damaeid mite, *Epidamaeus palaciosi* Iglesias and Guzmán, 2012 is discussed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Material — Oribatid mites (stored in ethanol) were received (one part of the large materials) from the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands. The samples (soil/leaf litter) were collected by P. Wagenaar Hummelinck (1907–2003) during...
his voyages in the Caribbean. Oribatids were sorted by M. Sellnick (1884–1971) from the following Islands (Fig. 1) and sites:

**Dutch Antilles, Bonaire (21 on Fig. 1)**
- 48A (this code – hereinafter – refers to the codes used by P. Wagenaar Hummelinck in 1981) Fontein, near spring, 12°15’N, 68°18′W, 30.III.1937 (the original label – hereinafter – is given, sometimes slightly modified)
- 180 Lac Bay, 12°6’11.01″N, 68°13’19.09″W, 16.IX.1967

**Antigua (12 on Fig. 1)**
- 591 Near Bats Cave, 17°1’0″N, 61°45’0″W, 13.VII.1955
- 593 Parham Hill, South slope, 14.VII.1955
- 594 Friars Hill, weathered rock, scattered shrubs, debris in semi-cultivated pasture, 16.VII.1955
- 594A Friars Hill, South of Agricultural Experimental Station, leaf-sheaths of *Tillandsia*, 16.VII.1955
- 595A Near Yepton Mill, West of Saint John’s, decomposed rocks, cultivated area with grasses, shrubs, cacti and *Tamarindus*, under pieces of rock, dead wood, 17°7’N, 61°52’W, 17.VII.1955

**Virgin (2 on Fig. 1)**
- 615 Saint Croix, Fredensborg Hill, south slope,
marly limestone, semi-cultivated area with scanty plant growth, some debris, II–VI.1955

**Anguilla (3 on Fig. 1)**

- 482 Forest Point, Saltwell, 18°02'09"N, 63°02'45.2"W, 18.VI.1949
- 483 Long Bay, 18°11'27.6"N, 63°07'53"W, 18.VI.1949

**Barbuda (11 on Fig. 1)**

- 596 Martello Tower, 17°35'38.73"N, 61°49'49.40"W, 8.VII.1955
- 599 Highlands, sinkhole of Dark Cave, 17°37'25.86"N, 61°45'03.63"W, 6.VII.1955
- 831 Coco Point Beach, 17°32'59.10"N, 61°45'57.50"W, 23.VIII.1967

**Dutch Antilles, Sint Eustatius (9 on Fig. 1)**

- 297 Oranjestad, 17°29'N, 62°58'W, 18.III.1937
- 430 Glass Bottle, West of Quill, 17°28'1.61"N, 62°58'0.91"W, 12.VII.1949
- 432 Billy Gut, downtown, 17°28'57.94"N, 62°59'3.60"W, 11.VII.1949
- 433 Concordia Bay, 17°30'14.95"N, 62°58'41.51"W, 8.VII.1949

**Trinidad (20 on Fig. 1)**

- 295 Tetron Bay, northwest Trinidad, 7.V.1936
- 295A Four Roads, northwest Trinidad, 7.V.1936
- 572 N-range, Cerro del Aripo, 10°44'N, 61°15'W, 30.I.1955
- 574 North Coast Road near La Vache Bay, schists, shrubs and weeds near watertrack, leaf debris with ferns and mosses, 10°44'57.32"N, 61°28'48.12"W, 29.I.1955
- 575A Saint Augustine, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, 10°38'33.12"N, 61°24'2.69"W, 31.I.1955
- 576 Gaspar Grande Island, chimney of cave, 10°40'N, 61°38'W, 11.I.1955
- 576A Gaspar Grande Island, limestone, chimney of 20 m deep cave with a few shrubs and trees around (shade), debris of Clusia on clayish soil, mould, 10°39'51.10"N, 61°39'53.79"W, 11.I.1955
- 577 Monos Island, South Sea Bay, sand, schist debris, abandoned cocos grove, some debris of Cocos, 10°40'N, 61°41'W, 10.I.1955
- 654 Bamboo Grove, Fish Experimental Station, 2°1×2/3, concrete tank, algae, Eichhornia and some Utricularia, fresh, 29.I.1955

**Tobago (19 on Fig. 1)**

- 582 South of airport near West Point, limestone, scattered trees in semi-cultivated grassy area, rocks with plant debris, cattle dung, 11°8'52.58"N 60°50'26.44"W, 17.I.1955
- 583 Little Tobago Island, at landing, volcanic rock, shrubs and scattered small trees, rock fissures with debris and debris, 11°18’2.02”N, 60°30’18.52”W, 18.I.1955
- 657 Frenchman’s River, near Speyside, rapidly flowing rivulet with pools, semi-permanent, volcanic rock, very small algae, 11°16’9.89”N, 60°32’52.31”W, 18.I.1955

**Dominica (15 on Fig. 1)**

- 845 Portsmouth, Prince Rupert Point Swamp, 15°34’11.45”N, 61°27’19.13”W, 15.VII.1967
- 844 Roseau near Botanical Garden, soft tuffoid rocky slope, growth of shrubs, trees and bamboo, some debris, 15°17’59.18”N, 61°22’58.32”W, 14.VIII.1967

**Saint Kitts (10 on Fig. 1)**

- 417 Saint Christopher, Morne Hills, East of Basseterre, 17°18’N, 62°44’W, 29.VI.1949
- 419 La Guérite, Agricultural Experimental Station, 2.VIII.1949
- 420 Wingfield River, 30.VI.1949
- 421 Brimston Hill, top, 17°20’49.49”N, 62°50’9.32”W, 30.VI.1949

**Grenada (18 on Fig. 1)**

- 586 Point Salines, volcanic tuffs, scattered shrubs on grassy slopes near coast, rock debris with some debris and cow dung, 12°0’N, 61°47’W, 26.I.1955
- 587 Saint Georges, Martin Bay, decomposed volcanic rock, scattered shrubs and trees near shore, rock debris, behind the bark and near base of dead Ceiba, 12°4’N, 61°45’W, 22.I.1955
- 588 Corinth Estate, Saint David, volcanic rock, cocoa estate with banana and coconut trees, leaf debris of Theobroma, Musa and Cocos, 25.I.1955
- 589 Saint George, Grand Etang Road, at bridge, 12°3’1.95”N, 61°45’13.74”W, 24.I.1955

793
.590 Near Grand Etang, forest, volcanic tuffs, forest with ferns, Selaginella and mosses near lake, wood debris, ferns and mosses, 12°5'44.48"N, 61°41'46.74"W, 24.I.1955

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Saint Vincent (17 on Fig. 1)
.856 Calliaqua Bay at Johnson Point, scanty plant debris with leaves of Coccoloba uvifera (Uca), 13°7'24.21"N, 61°11'37.91"W, 10.VII.1967
.857 Calliaqua Bay at Johnson Point, remains of building, plant debris on and in fissures of masonry, 13°7'48.66"N, 61°11'41.53"W, 10.VII.1967

Dutch Antilles, Curacao (22 on Fig. 1)
.79C Pool San Pedro, 12°15'19.64"N, 69°02'40.20"W, 5.III.1955
.204 Oost Seinpost Fuik, 12°4'N, 68°47'W, 9.IX.1936
.206 Santa Barbara, northwest slope of Tafelberg, 12°4'13.78"N, 68°50'9.29"W, 4.XI.1936
.235 Western foot of Seroe Christoffel, 10.XI.1936
.238 Boshí di Westpunt, 12°22'44.3"N, 69°09'41.4"W, 27.X.1936

Dutch Antilles, Aruba (23 on Fig. 1)
.247 Boca Prins, dunes, 12°29'54.02"N, 69°54'27.18"W, 9.I.1937
.251 Quadirikiri Cave southeast of Fontein, 12°58'54.51"N, 69°53'53.79"W, 9.II.1937
.253 Boga Grandi, 12°26'N, 69°52'W, 5.I.1937
.257 Hañje bij Pos Grandi, Rooi Lamoenchi, 12°27'32.36"N 69°57'28.79"W, 29.XII.1936
.562 Eagle Petroleum Company, sink hole in low limestone terrace, scanty shrubs, some leaf debris of Croton and Prosopis, 11.VII.1955
.632 Mangel Cora tunnel, Lago Oil Company refinery, 12.4203°N, 69.8694°W, 2.V.1955

Dutch Antilles, Sint Maarten (6 on Fig. 1)
.458A Point Blanche, considerable growth of shrubs and small trees, among pieces of rock and debris, on shrubs, 18°0'24.03"N, 63°2'35.50"W, 9.T.V.1967
.609 Little Bay Pond, limestone and sand along brackish water pond with boulders, Hippomane trees and litter, 18°1'12.89"N, 63°3'54.65"W, 4.VI.1955
.829 Point Blanche Bay, 18°0'4.63"N, 63°2'11.05"W, 9.VI.1967

French Antilles, Martinique (16 on Fig. 1)
.766 Islet Hardy, eastern shore, porous limestone, Sesuvium in fissures and among S. portulacastrum, 14°25'2.40"N, 60°49'54.70"W, 11.II.1964.

French Antilles, Saint Martin (5 on Fig. 1)
.474A Devils Hole Cave, limestone cave without vegetation (shady to dusky), weathered soil with bat faeces (Tadarida brasiliensis), rock debris, 18.0726N, 63.1189W, 26.VII.1955
.532 Puddle in Rambaud Valley North of Marigot, 18°4'N, 63°4'W, 20.V.1949
.541 Devils Hole Cave Pool, 18.0726°N 63.1189°W, 4.VIII.1949

Dutch Antilles, Saba (8 on Fig. 1)
.298 Road to the Bottom at S-curve, 17°37'N, 63°14'W, 18.III.1937
.437 Hellsgate, slope of the Mountain, 17°38'32.44"N, 63°13'44.37"W, 25.VII.1949
.439B Near to mountain (top of Mt Scenery), 17°38'4.01"N, 63°14'16.69"W, 26.VII.1949
.443 Thais Hill, 17°37'21.02"N, 63°14'46.39"W, 28.VII.1949
.444 Great Hill, 17°37'34.34"N, 63°15'8.62"W, 19.VII.1949
.714 Cove Bay, andesite, shore vegetation, sandy leaf debris of Coccoloba uvifera, 17°38'34.43"N, 63°13'17.74"W, 5.X.1963

French Antilles, Guadeloupe (14 on Fig. 1)
.727 Source de la Baie Nord-Ouest, W of Moule, permanent pool in connection with swamp with Avicennia and Rhizophora at about 20 m distance, sandy mud, grasses and ferns, 16°20'32.11"N, 61°22'42.70"W, 29.I.1964.
.733 La Désirade, North of Grande Anse, limestone, dense growth of high shrubs and small trees, rock debris and plant debris, for the greater part Coccoloba uvifera, 16°18'N, 61°4'W, 26.I.1964
.751 Marie-Galante, Viex Fort River, Embouchure, mouth of rivulet damned by sandy bar, sand and soft mud, algae, Ruppia and Rhizophora, 15°59'18.02"N, 61°18’1.68"W, 31.I.1964

Bahamas (1 on Fig. 1)
.493 New Providence Island, Blue Hills at Hunt’s Cave, 22.VIII.1949

French Antilles, Saint-Barthélémy (7 on Fig. 1)
.449 Gustavia yard, 17°53'46.37"N, 62°50'49.80"W, 5.VI.1949
French Antilles, Tintamarre (4 on Fig. 1)  
454 White Bay, 18°6′57.38″N, 62°59′15.68″W, 20.VI.1949  
455 Bluff N of White Bay (Baie Blanche), 18°6′57.38″N, 62°59′15.68″W, 20.VI.1949  

British Antilles, Montserrat (13 on Fig. 1)  
837 Plymouth, Agricultural Experimental Gardens, 16°42′N, 62°13′W, 20.VII.1967  

Methods — Specimens were mounted in lactic acid on temporary cavity slides for measurement and illustration. Body length was measured in lateral view, from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior edge of the ventral plate. Notogastral width refers to the maximum width in dorsal aspect. Lengths of body setae were measured in lateral aspect. All measurements are presented in micrometers. Formulas for leg setation are given in parentheses according to the sequence trochanter–femur–genu–tibia–tarsus (famulus included). Formulas for leg solenidia are given in square brackets according to the sequence genu–tibia–tarsus.  

Morphological terminology used in this paper follows that of F. Grandjean: see Travé and Vachon (1975) for general references, Norton (1977) for leg setal nomenclature, and Norton and Behan–Pelletier (2009), for overview. Systematics of oribatid mites used mostly follows that of L.S. Subías (2004, updated 2016). Identification of taxa used follows that of original descriptions, redescriptions and personal collection of the first author. Drawings were made with a camera lucida using a Carl Zeiss transmission light microscope “Axioskop-2 Plus”.  

LIST OF ORIBATID TAXA COLLECTED FROM THE CARRIBEAN  

This list (except ptycticous species; see Niedbała and Ermilov 2017) indicates the specific localities where oribatid mites were collected, and notes new records and general known distribution (See mostly Subías 2004, updated 2016). All specimens (except holotype) are deposited in the collection of the Tyumen State University Museum of Zoology, Tyumen, Russia. References for original descriptions of species are not presented in the “References” section.  

Lohmanniidae  

Malacostroridae  
Malacothrus sp. (in bad condition). Locality: 79C.  

Trhypochthoniidae  

Nothridae  

Crotoniidae  
Crotonia sp. (in bad condition). Locality: 433.  

Nanhermanniidae  
Masthermannia mammillaris (Berlese, 1904). Locality: 48A. Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions.  
Nanhermannia sp. (in bad condition). Locality: 439B.
Hermannniellidae


Pheroliodidae


Neoliodidae


Damaeidae


Liacaridae


Xenillidae


Eremulidae


Oppiidae


Dampfiellidae


Otocepeidae

*Plenotocepheus* sp. (it is a new species, which is described in other paper). Locality: 576A.

Carabodidae


Hydrozetidae


Cymbaeremaeidae


Scutoverticidae


Phenopelopidae

Microzetidae

Ceratozetidae

Punctoribatidae

Drymobatidae

Mochlozetidae

Oribatulidae

Scheloribatidae
Scheloribates (Scheloribates) sp. (it is a new species, which is described in other paper). Localities: 574, 585.

Oripodidae
Benoibates sp. (it is a new species, which is described in other paper). Localities: 591.

Haplozetidae
Areozetes sp. (it is a new species, which is described in other paper). Localities: 574.

Parakalummidae
**Nasobatidae**


**Galumnellidae**

*Galumnopsis* sp. (in bad condition). Locality: 572.

**Galumnidae**


**DESCRIPTION**

**Epidamaeus bahamensis n.sp.** (Figures 2–4)

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**Description** — Measurements – Medium size. Body length: 614 (holotype: female), 547 (two paratypes: two males); notogaster width 365 (holotype), 332 – 348 (two paratypes). Female larger than two males.

**Integument** (Figs 2A–B, 3A) — Body color light brownish. Surface of body with filamentous cerotegument. Setae of prodorsum, notogaster and legs usually without cerotegument.


**Notogaster** (Figs 2A–B, 3A) — Oval. Spinae adnatae (*sa*, 28–32) thorn-like, elongate, truncate or slightly bifurcate distally. Dorsal notogastral setae...
(h₁, 61 – 65, other setae 110 – 114) inserted in 2 sub-parallel rows, setiform, with flagellate tips, slightly barbed. Posterior setae p₁ longest on notogaster (160 – 164), flagellate, smooth; p₂ and p₃ (61) shortest and thinnest, setiform, slightly barbed. All lyrifissures (ia, im, ip, ih, ips) and opisthonotal gland openings (gla) distinct.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 3A) — Typical for Epidamaeus (e.g. Bayartogtokh 2000; Ermilov & Kalúz 2013). Subcapitulum longer than wide (118 × 86–90). Subcapitular setae (h, m, a, 41) setiform, slightly barbed. Adoral setae (10) thin, smooth. Palps (94) with setation 0–2–1–3–8(+α). Postpalpal setae (ep, 6) spini-form. Chelicerae (123) with 2 setiform setae, cha (32) barbed, chb (20) ciliate unilaterally in medio-distal part. Trágardh’s organ narrow, conical.


Anogenital region (Figs 2B, 3A) — Six pairs of genital (41), one pair of aggenital (ag, 41), two pairs of anal (an₁, an₂, 41) and three pairs of adanal (ad₁–ad₃, 45 – 49) setae setiform, indistinctly barbed.
**Figure 3:** *Epidamaeus bahamensis* n. sp.: A – lateral view (gnathosoma and legs not illustrated); B – tarsus of leg I, right, antiaxial view; C – genu and tibia of leg I, right, antiaxial view; D – trochanter and femur of leg I, right, antiaxial view. Scale bar 100 µm (A), scale bar 50 µm (B–D).
FIGURE 4: Epidamaeus bahamensis n. sp.: A – genu and tibia of leg II, right, antiaxial view; B – tarsus of leg IV, left, antiaxial view; C – tibia of leg IV, left, antiaxial view; D – genu of leg IV, left, antiaxial view; E – trochanter and femur of leg IV, left, antiaxial view; F – genu and tibia of leg III, left, slightly oblique antiaxial view. Scale bar 50 µm.
TABLE 1: Leg mean lengths (micrometers) of one paratype Epidamaeus bahamensis n. sp.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leg</th>
<th>Tr</th>
<th>Fe</th>
<th>Ge</th>
<th>Ti</th>
<th>Ta</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Leg : body mean length</th>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>≈1.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>≈0.90</td>
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<tr>
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<td>82</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>≈1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>≈1.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Tr – trochanter, Fe – femur, Ge – genu, Ti – Tibia, Ta – tarsus.

TABLE 2: Leg setation and solenidia of adult Epidamaeus bahamensis n. sp.

| Leg | Tr  | Fe  | Ge  | Ti  | Ta  | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| I   | v'  | d, (l), bo" , (v 1), v 2' | (l), (v), q 1, q 2 | (ft), (tc), (it), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv), (pl), (v), ω 1, ω 2 |
| II  | v'  | d, (l), bo" , (v) | (l), (v), q | (ft), (tc), (it), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv), (v), ω 1, ω 2 |
| III | l', v' | d, l', ev', v' | l', v', d | l', v', d | l', v', d |
| IV  | v'  | d, l', ev', v' | l', v', d | l', v', d | l', v', d |

Note: Roman letters refer to normal setae, Greek letters to solenidia (except ϵ = famulus), d σ – seta and solenidion coupled. Single prime ( ' ) marks setae on the anterior and double prime ( " ) setae on the posterior side of a given leg.

Adanal lyrifissures (iad) located in inverse apoanal position.

Legs (Figs 3B–D, 4A–F) — Leg II shorter than body length; legs I, III, IV longer than body length (Table 1). Formulae of leg setation and solenidia: I (1–7–4–4–20) [1–2–2], II (1–6–4–4–17) [1–1–2], III (2–4–3–3–17) [1–1–0], IV (1–4–3–3–14) [0–1–0]; homologies of setae and solenidia indicated in Table 2. Setae d slightly longer than σ on leg genua I–III.

Material examined — Holotype (female) and two paratypes (both males): The Bahamas, New Providence Island, Blue Hills at Hunt’s Cave, 22.VIII.1949 (P. Wagenaar Hummelinck).

Type deposition — The holotype is deposited in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands; two paratypes are deposited in the collection of the Tyumen State University Museum of Zoology, Tyumen, Russia.

Etymology — The specific name bahamensis refers to the Bahama Islands, where the new species was collected.

Comparison — The new species is morphologically most similar to Epidamaeus flagelloides Norton, 1979 from Chile (see Norton 1979) in having body of medium size, bothridial and notogastral setae p 1 flagellate, and interlamellar setae long, but differs by the notogastral setae with flagellate tips (vs. without flagellate tips), prodorsal tubercles Dp large (vs. small), parastigmatic tubercles Sa elongate, thorn-like (vs. triangular), and the absence of prodorsal tubercles Bp (vs. present).

GENERAL REMARKS

1. The list of identified oribatid mite taxa from the Caribbean based on part of large material from the collections of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, The Netherlands) included 84 species from 64 genera and 35 families. Of these (except seven not identified species), 17 species are known so far only from the Antilles, 39 species from the Neotropical region and other 21 species have more wide geographic distribution. The largest number of species belongs to the families Galumnidae (15 species), Haplozetidae (7), Scheloribatidae (7), Oppiidae (6) and the genera Pergalumna (8), Scheloribates (5) and Galumna (4). Muliercula orixaensis, Teleioliodes zikani, Archegozetes longisetosus, Hemileius major and Scheloribates (Scheloribates) praeincisus prevailed on number of studied sites (26, 18, 14, 14, 13, respectively). Four species, Grandjeania bicau-
data, Scheloribates (Scheloribates) milleri, Protoribates oblongus and Orthogalumna saeva, are recorded in the Neotropical region for the first time.

2. The analysis of literature on Damaeidae species has revealed an incorrect systematic placement of one species. Epidamaeus palaciosi was described by Iglesias and Guzmán (2012) from Mexico. However, it (see Figs 4–10 in Iglesias and Guzmán 2012) has solenidia coupled with dorsal setae on leg tibiae II and III (vs. dorsal setae on leg tibiae II and III absent in Epidamaeus). All main morphological characters of E. palaciosi correspond to Dyobelba Norton, 1978 (see generic traits in Norton 1978 and Bayartogtokh et al. 2001), therefore we propose the following change: Dyobelba palaciosi (Iglesias and Guzmán, 2012) n. comb.

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