

BOOK REVIEW

Vikram Prasad (2016): Revision of Genus Paraphytoseius Swirski and Shechter, 1961 (Acari: Phytoseiidae). – Indira Publishing House, USA: 503 pp. ISBN: 0-930337-32-0

Nineteen nominal species of the genus *Paraphytoseius* are reviewed based on type material, new and additional samples and original and additional/supplementary descriptions of such species that are not at hand for personal research.

In the first part material, methods and abbreviations are explained (pages 17–39). Part two discusses the morphological features in detail (pages 40–79). Part three deals with the redescriptions of all species, comparison, discussion and finally their conclusion with appeals and recomanditions (pages 80–159). A key, comparative tables (24), references (97 citations) and summary presentations in appendices round out the text (pages 160–238). The large figure part appears in the following part (pages 240–501 and some scattered in the previous parts too). The book finishes with a species index.

The re-researched morphological features show high variability. Such variable features resulted into creations of new species earlier. A great number are relegated here into synonymy. The variability are demonstrated by the large series of comparative tables both as intraspecific and as interspecific. The result is supported by an extraordinary large series of very detailed 292 micrographs. Seven of them show type slides in the whole. Additional two are schematic drawings to explain the discussed features. Many of the remaining figures are further subdivided or have insets, giving a total of more than 500 overview pictures and details.

In consequence of the study the number of species decreased to five valid species. The remaining recognized species with their respective synonyms are:

1. *Paraphytoseius cracentis* (Corpuz & Rimando, 1966) [= *Paraphytoseius nicobarensis* (Gupta, 1977); = *Paraphytoseius hualienensis* Ho & Lo, 1989; = *Paraphytoseius hyalinus* (Tseng, 1973)]
2. *Paraphytoseius scleroticus* (Gupta & Ray, 1981)
3. *Paraphytoseius ghanaensis* Moraes, Zannou & Oliveira, 2007
4. *Paraphytoseius hilli* Beard & Walter, 1996
5. *Paraphytoseius orientalis* (Narayanan, Kaur & Ghai, 1960) [= *Paraphytoseius apocynaevagrans* (Chinniah & Mohanasundaram, 2001); = *Paraphytoseius bhadrakaliensis* (Gupta, 1969); = *Paraphytoseius camarae* (Chinniah & Mohanasundaram, 2001); = *Paraphytoseius horrifera* (Pritchard & Baker, 1962); = *Paraphytoseius multidentatus* Swirski & Shechter, 1961; = *Paraphytoseius parabilis* (Chaudhri, 1967); = *Paraphytoseius subtropicus* (Tseng, 1972); = *Paraphytoseius urumanus* (Ehara, 1967)]

The author appeals to give careful future description that are based on expanded type series and documentation of possible variable features. This book may be touch only to a small fraction of the scientists on the base of their topics but it sends a strong message for the responsible work of the researchers. Few inconsistencies of the layout and phrasings can't reduce the use of the book. The reviewer has found only three minor misprints in the enormous opus, and because the author petitioned for information of such cases, this small amount can be considered to be acceptable.

The sum of the detailed information is exemplary and makes the years of work so outstanding. The practiced and as called care for examination of variable morphological features of extensive material is a correct and an important step towards understanding of the variety of forms, not only within the Acari, but in general for the entire living being. That makes this book especially valuable and highly recommended.

Karl-Heinz Schmidt, Oderwitz

