

A New Species of Oribatid Mite, *Punctoribates tschernovi* sp. n. (Acariformes, Oribatida, Punctoribatidae), from Azerbaijan

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Abstract—A new species, *Punctoribates tschernovi* sp. n. (Oribatida, Punctoribatidae), is described from the forests in Azerbaijan. The new species differs from the similar *Punctoribates sphericus* Shaldybina, 1987 in a larger size, the presence of notogastral setae and a small tooth at the end of the rostrum, a smooth anterior edge of the turtorium, and an elongated porose area Aa.

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At present, the fauna of oribatid mites of the Caucasus comprises 1026 species (Shtanchaeva and Subías, 2010). Some taxa mentioned in the catalogue published in 2010 are new to science. One of these species (mentioned in the catalogue as “*Punctoribates* (*P.*) sp.”) is described below.

All the measurements are given in micrometers.

Punctoribates tschernovi Shtanchaeva et Subías, sp. n. (figure)

Material. Azerbaijan, Ismaily, broad-leaved forest (hornbeam, beech, oak), litter, 1600 m above sea level. Holotype (♂) and 5 paratypes (3 ♂ and 2 ♀), all adults. Collected by Kh.A. Aliev, 25.VII.2003. Holotype (in lactic acid) is deposited at the Complutense University in Madrid; paratypes, in private collection of the authors.

Description. Length of holotype 523, width 400 (of paratypes, 500–570 and 360–410, correspondingly). Size larger than that in all known representatives of the genus. Integument brown, smooth.

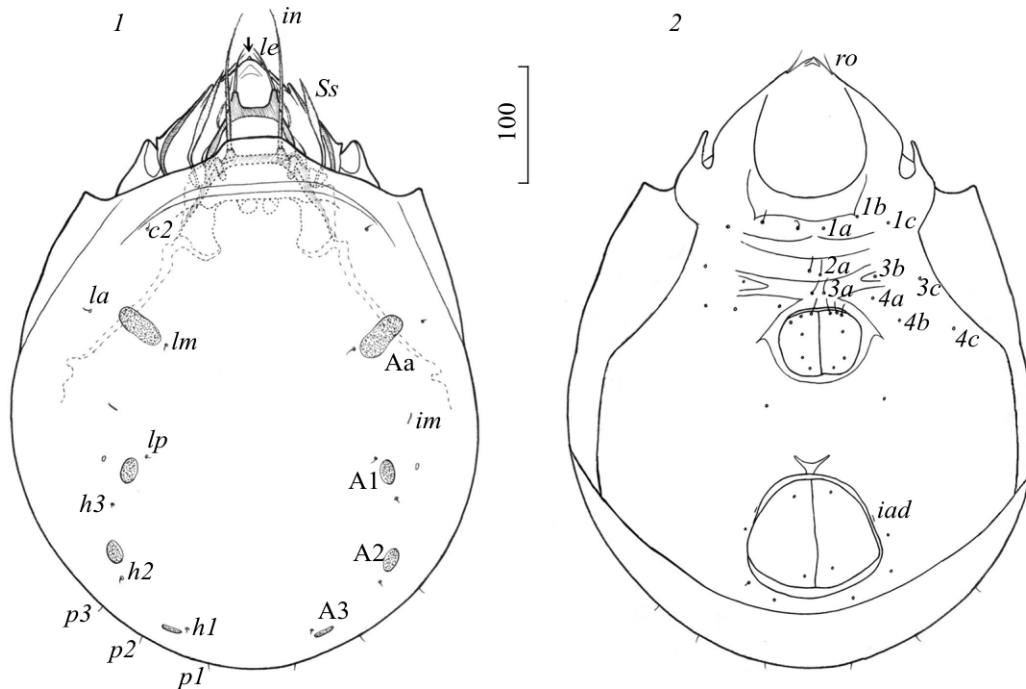
Dorsal side (figure, 1). Prodorsum wide and short (length of notogaster more than six times as long as length of prodorsum in dorsal view). Rostrum rounded, with small pointed tooth at apex. Tutoria with smooth anterior margin. Cuspices twice as long as width of well-developed translamella. Rostral setae (28) slightly externally ciliate, lamellar setae (40)

smooth. Interlamellar setae long (120), projecting far beyond margin of rostrum, covered with sparse small barbs. Exobothridial setae invisible in dorsal view. Cup-shaped bothridia covered by anterior margin of notogaster. Trichobothria (*Ss*) spindle-shaped, smooth, long (105); distal ends of trichobothria pointed, projecting beyond level of translamella.

Notogaster (length 450) large, widely oval. Anterior prominence with straight anterior and rounded lateral margins. Notogaster with 10 pairs of setae, all setae setiform, very small (down to 5) fine, smooth. Notogaster with 4 pairs of elongated porose areas; first pair (Aa) very large (45 × 20), more than twice longer than wide; other porose areas (length 16–21) oval. Lyrifissurae *im* small (8).

Ventral side (figure, 2). Structure of ventral side typical of the genus. Epimeral formula 3 : 1 : 3 : 3, epimeral setae simple (eliminarian unmodified), smooth, small (7–10). Genital (56 × 70) and anal (100 × 115) openings large, wide, trapezoid. Genital, anal, aggenital, and adanal setae constituting 6, 2, 1, and 3 pairs, respectively. Three pairs of anterior genital setae situated very closely to anterior margin of genital plates. All setae of anogenital region smooth, fine, significantly longer (10–14) than notogastral setae. Lyrifissurae *iad* running in parallel to antero-lateral margin of anal plates.

Legs with 3 claws. Chaetotaxy of leg eliminarian typical of the genus.



Punctoribates tschernovi sp. n.: (1) dorsal side; (2) ventral side. Setae: *ro*, rostral; *le*, lamellar; *in*, interlamellar; *c*₂, *la*, *lm*, *lp*, *h*₁–*h*₃, *p*₁–*p*₃ notogastral; *1a*–*c*, *2a*, *3a*–*c*, *4a*–*c*, epimeral; *Ss*, trichobothrium; *Aa*, *A1*, *A2*, *A3*, porose areas; *im*, *iad*, lyrifissurae. Scale 100 μm.

Differential diagnosis. The species *Punctoribates sphericus* Shaldybina, 1987, possessing similar proportions of the body and proterosomal setae and similar shape of lamellae (Shaldybina and Grishina, 1987), is most similar to the described species. The new species differs from *P. sphericus* in a significantly larger size (the length of *P. sphericus* reaches 450); in the presence of a small tooth at the end of the rostrum; in a smooth anterior margin of tutorial (in *P. sphericus*, this margin is indented); in the presence of short notogastral setae (in *P. sphericus*, only alveoli are present); and in the presence of large elongated porose areas *Aa* (in *P. sphericus*, porose areas are rounded and *Aa* are significantly smaller).

Etymology. The species is named in memory of Academician Yurii Ivanovich Chernov, an outstanding

zoologist, ecologist, and biogeographer (A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow).

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