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Article

Oribatid mites (Acari, Oribatida) from the vicinity of El Limón waterfall, Dominican Republic

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ABSTRACT

Forty-three species of oribatid mites (Oribatida), belonging to 31 genera and 18 families, were collected from leaf litter in a mixed forest from the vicinity of El Limón waterfall, Samaná Province, northern Dominican Republic; of these, 15 species, 13 genera and five families are recorded in this country for the first time. A new species of the genus *Suctobelbella*—*S. (Flagrosuctobelba) limonensis* **sp. nov.**—is described.

KEY WORDS: Fauna, morphology, Neotropical region, new record, *Suctobelbella*, taxonomy.

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INTRODUCTION

This work is part of our ongoing study of oribatid mites (Acari, Oribatida) in the Dominican Republic (e.g., Ermilov 2024b; Shtanchaeva and Ermilov 2024). It includes data on specimens collected from leaf litter in a mixed forest near the El Limón waterfall, Samaná Province, in the northern part of the country. The main objectives of our paper are to provide a list of all identified taxa and to describe one new species belonging to the subgenus *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) Hammer, 1979 (family Suctobelbidae).

The subgenus *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) was established by Hammer (1979) as an independent genus, with *Flagrosuctobelba multiplumosa* Hammer, 1979 as type species. It comprises more than 60 species with a cosmopolitan distribution (Subías 2022, online version 2024; Ermilov 2024c). The main subgeneric traits can be found in Hammer (1979), Shtanchaeva and Subías (2009), Subías and Shtanchaeva (2023). An identification key for the known representatives of *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) from the Neotropical region is presented by Ermilov (2024c).

Prior to this study, three species of *Suctobelbella* had been recorded in the Dominican Republic (Ermilov 2024b), all of which were collected from leaf litter in a mixed forest on Saona Island, located off the southeast coast of the country.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material

Locality: Dominican Republic, 19°32' N, 69°26' W, Samaná Province, vicinity of El Limón waterfall, leaf litter in a mixed forest (date and collector unknown; collection of the University of Tyumen, Museum of Zoology, Tyumen, Russia). All specimens (except the type material) are in the personal collection (preserved in 70% solution of ethanol with a drop of glycerol) of the first author.

Observation and documentation

For measurement and illustration, specimens were mounted in lactic acid on temporary cavity slides. Body length was measured in lateral view, from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior edge of the notogaster; notogastral width refers to the maximum width of the notogaster in dorsal view; lengths of body setae were measured in lateral aspect; all body measurements are presented in micrometers (μm). 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. Drawings were made with a camera lucida using a Leica DM 2500 transmission light microscope.

Terminology

Morphological terminology used in this paper mostly follows that of papers on *Suctobelbella* (e.g., Ermilov and Hugo-Coetzee 2017; Ermilov 2024a, c); also, Norton (1977) for leg setal nomenclature and Norton and Behan-Pelletier (2009) for overview.

Abbreviations

Prodorsum: *pt* = prodorsal tooth; *tf* = tectopedial field; *ro*, *le*, *in*, *bs*, *ex* = rostral, lamellar, interlamellar, bothridial, and exobothridial setae, respectively; *exv* = vestige of second exobothridial seta; *mt* = median knob-like tubercle; *pmt*, *plt* = medial and lateral prodorsal tubercles, respectively. **Notogaster:** *nmt*, *nlt* = medial and lateral notogastral tubercles, *len* = lenticulus; respectively; *c*, *la*, *lm*, *lp*, *h*, *p* = setae; *ia*, *im* = lyrifissures; *gla* = opisthonotal gland opening. **Gnathosoma:** *a*, *m*, *h* = subcapitular setae; *sup*, *inf*, *d*, *cm*, *acm*, *ul*, *su*, *vt*, *lt* = palp setae; ω = palp solenidion. **Epimeral and lateral podosomal regions:** *1a–1c*, *2a*, *3a–3c*, *4a–4c* = epimeral setae; *PdI* = pedotectum I; *lpt*, *lat* = anterior and posterior lateral tubercles, respectively; *dis* = discidium. **Anogenital region:** *g*, *ag*, *an*, *ad* = genital, aggenital, anal, and adanal setae, respectively; *iad* = adanal lyrifissure; *po* = preanal organ. **Legs:** *Tr*, *Fe*, *Ge*, *Ti*, *Ta* = trochanter, femur, genu, tibia, tarsus, respectively; ω , ϕ , σ = solenidia; ε = famulus; *d*, *l*, *v*, *bv*, *ev*, *ft*, *tc*, *it*, *p*, *u*, *a*, *s*, *pv*, *pl* = setae.

Notes

References to the original descriptions of taxa in the *List of taxa* section are not included in the *References* section.

LIST OF TAXA

Distribution mostly from Subías (2022, online version 2024).

Hypochthoniidae

Eohypochthonius gracilis (Jacot, 1936): 31 ex. Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions.

Lohmanniidae

Lohmannia jornoti Mahunka, 1985: 1 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region.

Meristacarus longisetosus Mahunka, 1978: 28 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region.

Epilohmanniidae

Epilohmannia pallida Wallwork, 1962: 4 ex. Distribution: Tropical region. New record of the family, genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Trhypochthoniidae

Afronothrus incisivus Wallwork, 1961: 47 ex. Distribution: Tropical region.

Allonothrus tuxtlasensis Palacios-Vargas & Iglesias, 1997: 38 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region.

Archegozetes magnus (Sellnick, 1925): 24 ex. Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions.

Nothridae

Nothrus willmanni Mahunka, 1983: 1 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region. New record of the family, genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Arceremaeidae

Tecteremaeus sp.: 3 ex. New record of the genus in the Dominican Republic.

Oppiidae

Aeroppia maldivesensis Ermilov & Joharchi, 2022: 8 ex. Distribution: Maldives, Neotropical region.

Arcoppia serrulata (Balogh & Mahunka, 1980): 55 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region, Vietnam. New record of the genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Multioppia insularis Mahunka, 1985: 11 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region.

Oppiella nova (Oudemans, 1902): 27 ex. Distribution: Cosmopolitan. New record of the genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Oxyoppia (Dzarogneta) sp.: 1 ex. New record of the genus in the Dominican Republic.

Striatoppia opuntiseta Balogh & Mahunka, 1968: 3 ex. Distribution: Tropical region, Japan.

Sternoppiidae

Sternoppia vicina Balogh & Mahunka, 1980: 1 ex. Distribution: Neotropical. New record of the family, genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Suctobelbidae

Suctobelbella (Suctobelbella) longicuspis Jacot, 1937: 1 ex. Distribution: Semicosmopolitan. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.

Suctobelbella (Suctobelbella) ornatissima (Hammer, 1958): 2 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.

Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba) matanzasensis Ermilov, 2024: 2 ex. Distribution: Cuba. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.

Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba) peracuta (Balogh & Mahunka, 1980): 8 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region, South Africa.

Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba) limonensis **sp. nov.**: 6 ex.

Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba) sp.: 1 ex.

Suctobelbella (Ussuribata) variosetosa (Hammer, 1961): 4 ex. Distribution: Tropical region.

Tectocepheidae

Tegeozetes tunicatus Berlese, 1913: 8 ex. Distribution: Tropical region, Hungary.

Microzetidae

Protozetes digitifer alticola P. Balogh, 1989: 1 ex. Distribution: Ecuador. New record of the genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Achipteriidae

Achipteria (Izuachipteria) sp.: 12 ex. New record of the family and genus in the Dominican Republic.

Oribatellidae

Oribatella sp.: 1 ex. New record of the family and genus in the Dominican Republic.

Punctoribatidae

Lamellobates botari Balogh & Mahunka, 1977: 7 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.

Mochlozetidae

Unguizetes similis Mahunka, 1998: 6 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region. New record of the genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Scheloribatidae

Hammerabates sp.: 1 ex. New record of the genus in the Dominican Republic.

Scheloribates elegans Hammer, 1958: 36 ex. Distribution: Tropical region.

Scheloribates praeincisus (Berlese, 1910): 17 ex. Distribution: Oriental, Australasian, Afrotropical, Neotropical, and Southern Holarctic regions.

Scheloribates (Perscheloribates) curiosus (Ermilov, 2016): 23 ex. Distribution: Northern Neotropical region.

Haplozetidae

Protoribates antillensis (Mahunka, 1985): 5 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region, Iran. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.

Protoribates paracapucinus (Mahunka, 1988): 12 ex. Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions.

Protoribates praeoccupatus Subías, 2004: 32 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region, Iran. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.

Rostrozetes ovulum (Berlese, 1908): 22 ex. Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions.

Galumnidae

Allogalumna cubana Balogh & Mahunka, 1979: 67 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region. New record of the genus and species in the Dominican Republic.

Carinogalumna genavensium (Mahunka, 1998): 3 ex. Distribution: Neotropical region.
Galumna (Neogalumna) harrysmiti Ermilov, 2016: 1 ex. Distribution: Lesser Antilles. New record of the species in the Dominican Republic.
Pergalumna bifissurata Hammer, 1972: 1 ex. Distribution: Tahiti, Neotropical region.
Pergalumna saonaensis Ermilov, 2024: 5 ex. Distribution: Dominican Republic.
Pergalumna sp.: 2 ex.

The list includes 43 species belonging to 31 genera and 18 families. Fifteen species, 13 genera and five families are recorded in the Dominican Republic for the first time. Of the 35 species (except one new species and seven unidentified species), one species is known only from the Dominican Republic, 14 species are Neotropical and 20 (including two Cosmopolitan/Semicosmopolitan species) have broad distributions (more than one geographical region).

TAXONOMY

Family Suctobelbidae

Suctobelbella Jacot, 1937

Subgenus *Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba)* Hammer, 1979

Type species: *Flagrosuctobelba multiplumosa* Hammer, 1979

Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba) limonensis sp. nov. (Figs. 1–12)

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:AE438D9A-641F-4AC0-929A-F44C0E0E698B>

Type material

Holotype (male) and five paratypes (five males): locality see in *Materials and methods* section.

Type deposition

The holotype is deposited in the collection of the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History, Görlitz, Germany; five paratypes are in the collection of the University of Tyumen, Museum of Zoology, Tyumen, Russia. All specimens are preserved in 70% solution of ethanol with a drop of glycerol.

Diagnosis

Body length: 172–195. Rostrum narrowly rounded, with three pairs of anterolateral teeth. Tectopedial field complete. Rostral seta medium-sized, geniculate; lamellar, interlamellar and exobothridial setae short, setiform, nearly smooth; bothridial seta long, setiform, slightly dilated in medial part, heavily ciliated unilaterally. Medial and lateral notogastral tubercles separated. Lenticulus present. Nine pairs of notogastral setae: h_2 medium-sized, setiform, thicker than other setae, distinctly barbed; others short, setiform, c , h_1 , p_1 , and p_2 shortest, nearly smooth; la and lm roughened; lp and h_3 slightly barbed. Palp setation: 0-2-0-1-8(+ ω). Chelicera without setae. Epimeral and anogenital setae setiform, nearly smooth; adanal seta ad_1 inserted laterally to anal aperture; distance $ag-ag$ larger than ad_3-ad_3 . Both laterosejugal tubercles present.

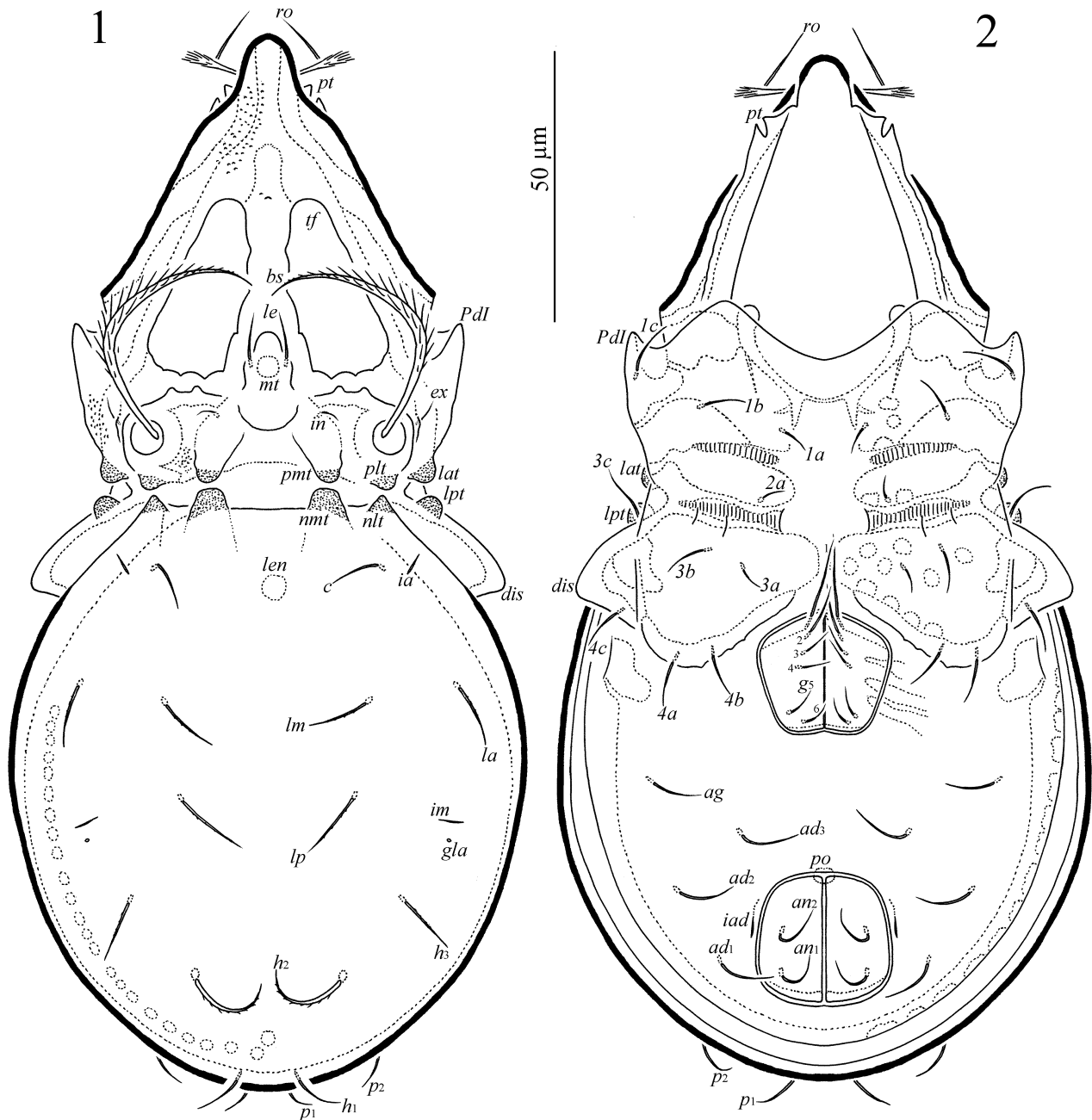
Description

Measurements – Body length: 187 (holotype), 172–195 (paratypes); notogaster width: 94 (holotype), 90–98 (paratypes).

Integument – Body color light brown. Body surface mainly smooth but anterior, interbothridial and lateral parts prodorsum partially with microtuberculate cerotegument.

Prodorsum – Rostrum slightly protruding, narrowly rounded, with three strong anterolateral

teeth (anterior tooth smallest) on each side. Tectopedial field complete. Median knob-like tubercle well developed. Rostral seta (26–32) geniculate, ciliate in median part; lamellar (11), interlamellar (5–7) and exobothridial (5–7) setae setiform, nearly smooth; bothridial seta (49–56) setiform, slightly dilated in medial part, heavily ciliated unilaterally. Medial and lateral prodorsal tubercles simple.

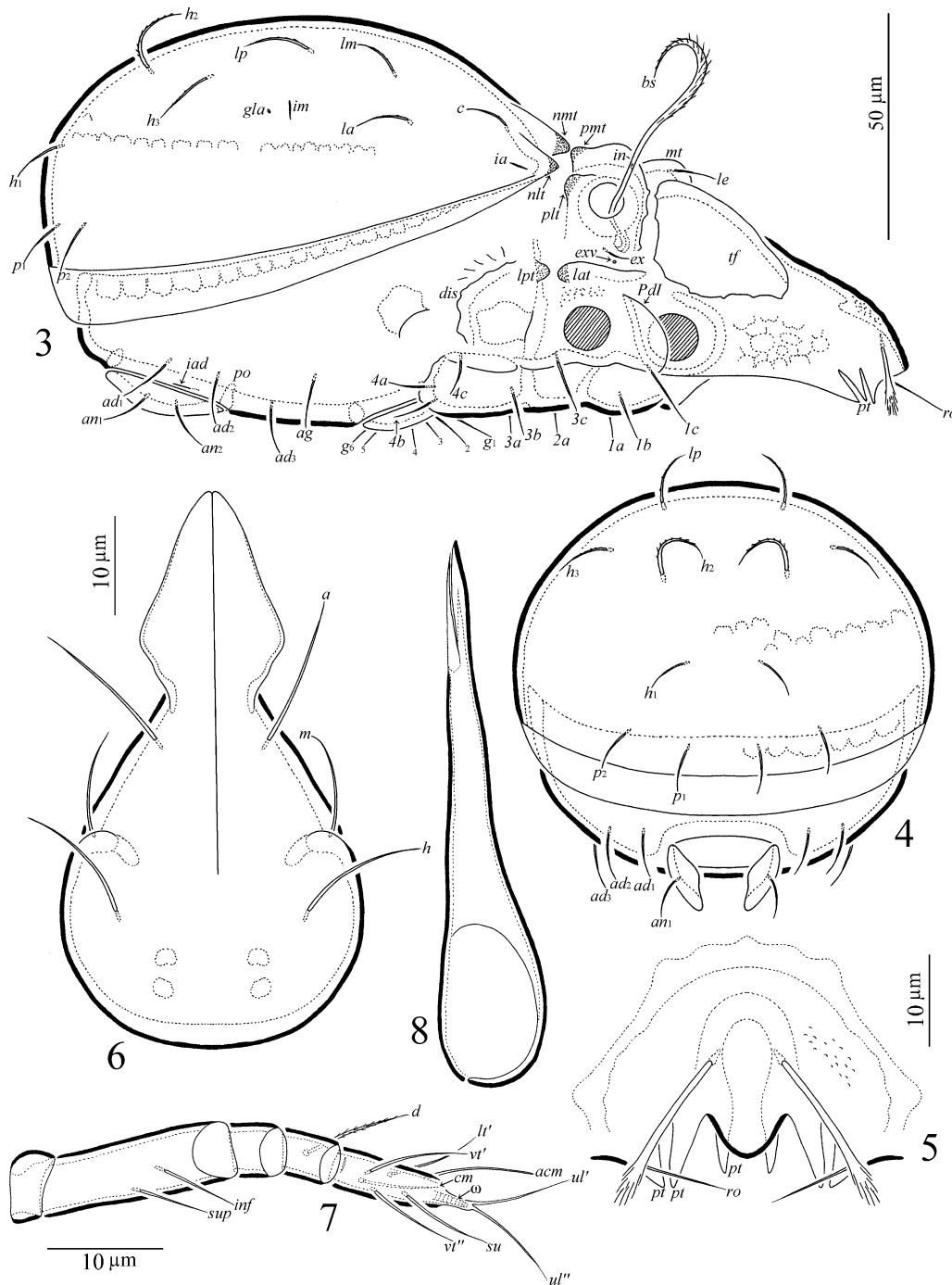


Figures 1–2. *Suctobella* (*Flagrosuctobella*) *limonensis* sp. nov. (adult) – 1. Dorsal view (legs not shown); 2. Ventral view (gnathosoma and legs not shown).

Notogaster – Dorsosejugal suture complete, straight. Medial and lateral notogastral tubercles well separated; medial tubercle simple; lateral tubercle triangular. Lenticulus present, but slightly observable. Nine pairs of notogastral setae developed: *c*, *h*₁, *p*₁, and *p*₂ (11) setiform, nearly smooth; *la* and *lm* (13) setiform, roughened; *lp* and *h*₃ (13–15) setiform, slightly barbed; *h*₂ (19–22) setiform,

thicker than other setae, distinctly barbed; *lm* located laterally to *la*. Opisthonotal gland opening and lyrifissures *ia* and *im* distinct; lyrifissures *ip*, *ih* and *ips* not observable.

Gnathosoma – Subcapitulum size: 60–64 × 30–34; setae (*a*, *h*: 17–19; *m*: 11–13) setiform, smooth; both adoral setae not observable. Palp length: 45–49; setation: 0-2-0-1-8(+0); solenidion short, bacilliform, located in distal part of tarsus and connected with mediobasal part of fused setae *ul*; postpalpal seta not observable. Chelicera length: 60–64; cheliceral setae (*cha*, *chb*) absent; teeth of cheliceral digits not developed.

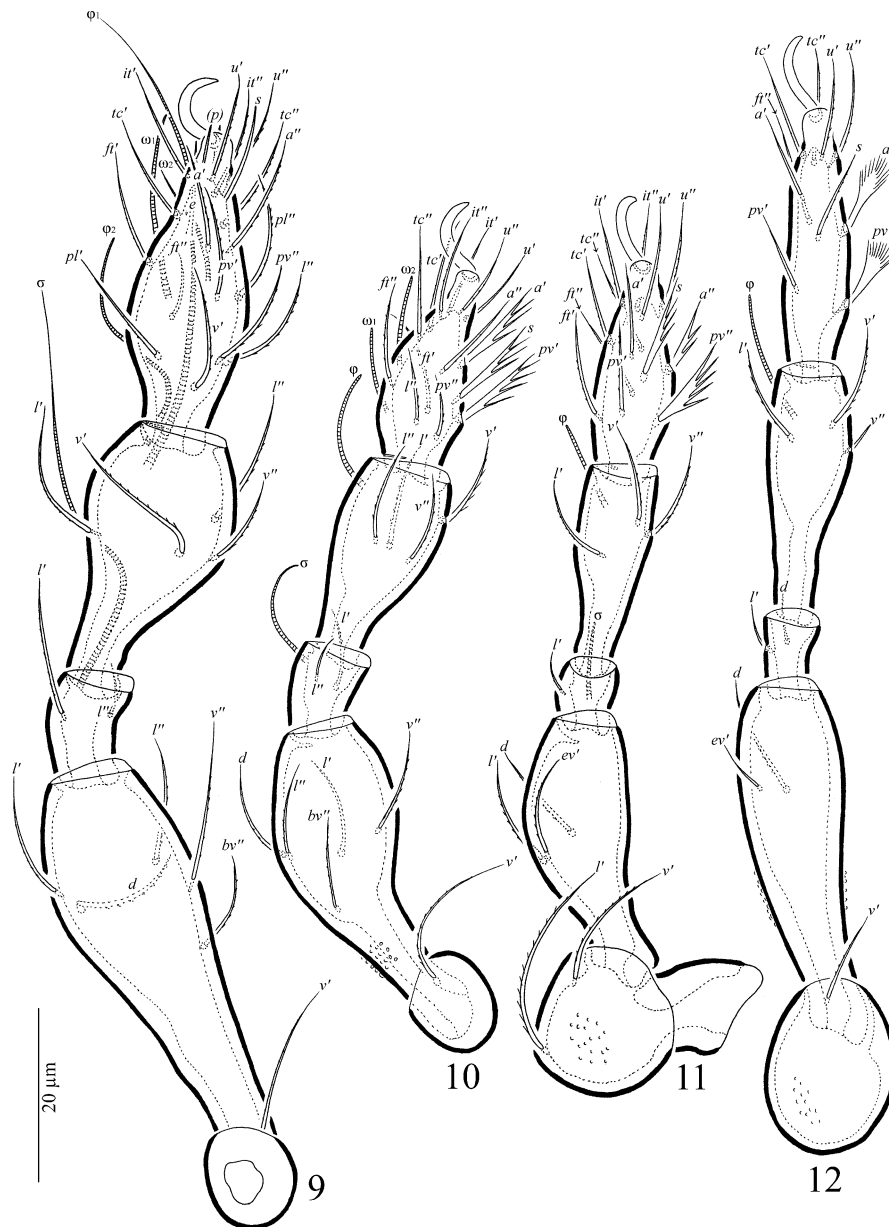


Figures 3–8. *Suctobelbella (Flagrosuctobelba) limonensis* sp. nov., adult – 3. Right lateral view (gnathosoma and legs not shown); 4. Posterior view; 5. Anterior view of prodorsum, anterior view; 6. Subcapitulum, ventral view; 7. Palp, left ventroparaxial view; 8. Chelicera, right, paraxial view.

Epimeral and lateral podosomal regions – Epimeral setal formula: 3-1-3-3; setae (*1a*, *2a*, *3a*: 5–7; *1b*, *3b*, *4a*, *4b*, *4c*: 11; *1c*, *3c*: 13) setiform, smooth. Both laterosejugal tubercles simple. Discidium rounded in dorsal aspect.

Anogenital region – Anogenital setal formula: 6-1-2-3; genital (*g*₁: 13–15; *g*₂: 11; others: 5–7), aggenital (11), anal (11), and adanal (11) setae setiform, nearly smooth; adanal seta *ad*₁ inserted laterally to anal aperture; distance between *ag*–*ag* larger than *ad*₃–*ad*₃. Adanal lyrifissure close and parallel to anal plate.

Legs – Claw strong, smooth. Porose area on all segments not observable. Formulas of leg setation and solenidia: I (1-5-2-4-20) [1-2-2], II (1-5-2-4-14) [1-1-2], III (2-3-1-3-13) [1-1-0], IV (1-2-2-3-10) [0-1-0]; homology of setae and solenidia indicated in Table 1; solenidia ϕ_1 on tibia I and σ on genu I subflagellate; ω_2 medium-sized, setiform; other solenidia slightly thickened, rounded distally; setae *a'*, *a''* and *s* on tarsus I eupathidial-like; setae *a'*, *s* and *pv'* on tarsus II and *a''*, *s* and *pv''* on tarsus III thickened, with strong ventral cilia; setae *a''* and *pv''* of tarsus IV brush-like.



Figures 9–12. *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) *limonensis* sp. nov., adult – 9. Leg I, left ventroparaxial view; 10. Leg II, right, antiaxial view; 11. Leg III, left, ventroantiaxial view; 12. Leg IV, left, ventroantiaxial view.

Table 1. Leg setation and solenidia of adult *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) *limonensis* sp. nov.

Leg	Tr	Fe	Ge	Ti	Ta
I	v'	d, (l), bv'', v''	(l), σ	(l), (v), φ ₁ , φ ₂	(ft), (tc), (it), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv), v', (pl), l', e, ω ₁ , ω ₂
II	v'	d, (l), bv'', v''	(l), σ	(l), (v), φ	(ft), (tc), (it), (u), (a), s, (pv), l', ω ₁ , ω ₂
III	l', v'	d, l', ev'	l', σ	l', (v), φ	(ft), (tc), (it), (u), (a), s, (pv)
IV	v'	d, ev'	d, l'	l', (v), φ	ft'', (tc), (u), (a), s, (pv)

Note: Roman letters refer to normal setae; Greek letters to solenidia; single prime (') marks setae on the anterior and double prime (') setae on the posterior side of a given leg segment; parentheses refer to a pair of setae.

Comparison

Suctobelbella (*Flagrosuctobelba*) *limonensis* sp. nov. is similar to the large group of the *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) species having thickened and barbed notogastral setae h_2 (e.g., *S. (F.) crassisetosa* Ermilov, 2024 (see 2024a); *S. (F.) multiplumosa* (Hammer, 1979); *S. (F.) penicillata* (Balogh & Mahunka, 1966); *S. (F.) semiplumosa* (Balogh & Mahunka, 1967) etc.). However, these setae sparsely barbed (versus heavily barbed) and only they among notogastral setae have distinct barbs (versus two or more pairs of notogastral have distinct barbs) in the new species.

Etymology

The species name *limonensis* refers to the place of origin, the vicinity of El Limón waterfall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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هرناهای اربیاتید (Acari, Oribatida) محدوده آبشار ال لیمون، جمهوری دومینیکن

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چکیده

چهل و سه گونه هرناهای اربیاتید (Oribatida)، متعلق به ۳۱ جنس و ۱۸ خانواده، از بستر برگ در جنگل مخلوط از محدوده آبشار ال لیمون، استان سامانا، شمال جمهوری دومینیکن جمع‌آوری شدند؛ از این تعداد ۱۶ گونه، ۱۳ جنس و پنج خانواده برای نخستین بار از این کشور گزارش می‌شود. گونه جدیدی از جنس *Suctobelbella* (*Flagrosuctobelba*) *limonensis* **sp. nov.** — توصیف می‌شود.

واژگان کلیدی: زیباگان، ریخت‌شناسی، ناحیه نئوتروپیکال، گزارش جدید، *Suctobelbella*، آرایه‌شناسی.

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