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Contribution to knowledge of the oribatid mite genus *Oxyamerus* (Acari, Oribatida, Oxyameridae), with description of a new species from Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Oxyamerus* (Oribatida, Oxyameridae) comprises 11 species distributed across the Australasian, Oriental, and southern Palaearctic regions. A new species—*O. jambiensis* **sp. nov.**—is described, based on adults collected from forest litter in Sumatra, Indonesia. The new species is characterized by the presence of a long, thorn-like structure originating from the podosomal apophysis. An identification key, along with data on the distribution and habitats of the known representatives of *Oxyamerus*, are provided.

KEYWORDS

Generic diagnosis, identification key, Indonesia, morphology, oxyamerid mites, taxonomy

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INTRODUCTION

The oribatid mite genus *Oxyamerus* (Acari, Oribatida, Oxyameridae) was described by Aoki (1965), with *Oxyamerus spathulatus* Aoki, 1965 as type species. The genus currently contains 11 species which are collectively distributed in the Australasian, Oriental, and southern Palaearctic regions (Subías 2022, online version 2024; Ermilov 2025). The generic diagnosis was revised by Ermilov and Corpuz-Raros (2017).

During the taxonomic identification of oribatid mites from Sumatra, Indonesia, one new species of *Oxyamerus* was found. The main goals of the paper are: (1) to describe this new species as *O. jambiensis* **sp. nov.**; (2) to provide an identification key for all known species of *Oxyamerus*; and (3) to compile data on the distribution and habitats of representatives of the genus.

Prior to this study, two species of *Oxyamerus*—*O. hyalinus* Hammer, 1979 and *O. truncatus* Hammer, 1979—were recorded from Indonesia (Hammer 1979).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens examined were collected in the framework of the EFForTS Project ('Ecological and socioeconomic functions of tropical lowland rainforest transformation sytems (Sumatra, Indonesia)'; https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/310995.html; Drescher *et al.* 2016) on the island of Sumatra.

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

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gastronotum. Body width refers to the maximum width of the notogaster in dorsal view. Setae were measured from the side to avoid foreshortening. All measurements are given in micrometres (µm). Formulas for leg setation are given in parentheses according to the sequence trochanter–femur–genu–tibia–tarsus (famulus of tarsus I included). Formulas for leg solenidia are given in square brackets, according to the sequence genu–tibia–tarsus. Paired structures are described in the singular, unless otherwise noted. Drawings were made with a camera lucida using a Leica DM 2500 light microscope.

Morphological terminology used in this paper follows that of Grandjean: see Travé and Vachon (1975) for references, Norton (1977) for leg setal nomenclature, and Norton and Behan-Pelletier (2009) for overview.

Abbreviations: Prodorsum: *ro*, *le*, *in*, *bs*, *ex* = rostral, lamellar, interlamellar, bothridial, and exobothridial setae, respectively; *dst* = dorsosejugal tubercle. Notogaster: *c*, *la*, *lm*, *lp*, h_1–h_3, p_1–p_3 = setae; *ia*, *im*, *ip*, *ih*, *ips* = lyrifissures; *gla* = opisthonotal gland opening. Gnathosoma: *a*, *m*, *h* = subcapitular setae; *d*, *l*, *sup*, *inf*, *cm*, *acm*, *ul*, *su*, *lt*, *vt* = palp setae; ω = solenidion; *cha* = cheliceral seta; *Tg* = Trägårdh's organ. Epimeral and lateral podosomal regions: *1a–1c*, *2a*, *3a–3c*, *4a–4c* = epimeral setae; *PdI*, *PdII* = pedotecta I and II, respectively; *pap* = podosomal apophysis; *tls* = thorn-like structure. Anogenital region: g_1–g_6, *ag*, an_1–an_2, ad_1–ad_3 = genital, aggenital, anal, and adanal setae, respectively; *iad* = adanal lyrifissure; *po* = preanal organ. Legs: ω, φ, σ = solenidia; *e* = famulus; *d*, *l*, *v*, *bv*, *ev*, *ft*, *tc*, *it*, *p*, *u*, *a*, *s*, *pv*, *pl* = setae; *pa* = porose area.

RESULTS

TAXONOMY

Family Oxyameridae Aoki, 1965

Genus *Oxyamerus* Aoki, 1965

Type species: *Oxyamerus spathulatus* Aoki, 1965

Oxyamerus jambiensis sp. nov. (Figs 1–10)

http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:AB8317DE-C0BD-45A2-8973-6A364F01CB3A

Type material

Holotype (male) and two paratypes (one male and one female): Indonesia, Sumatra, Jambi Province, Bukit Duabelas National Park, 02° 05′ 30.7″ S, 102° 48′ 30.7″ E, litter in secondary rainforest, November 2013 (collected by B. Klarner).

Type deposition

The holotype is deposited in the collection of the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Cibinong, Bogor, Indonesia; two paratypes are deposited in the collection of the University of Tyumen, Tyumen, Russia. All specimens are preserved in 70% ethanol with a drop of glycerol added.

Diagnosis

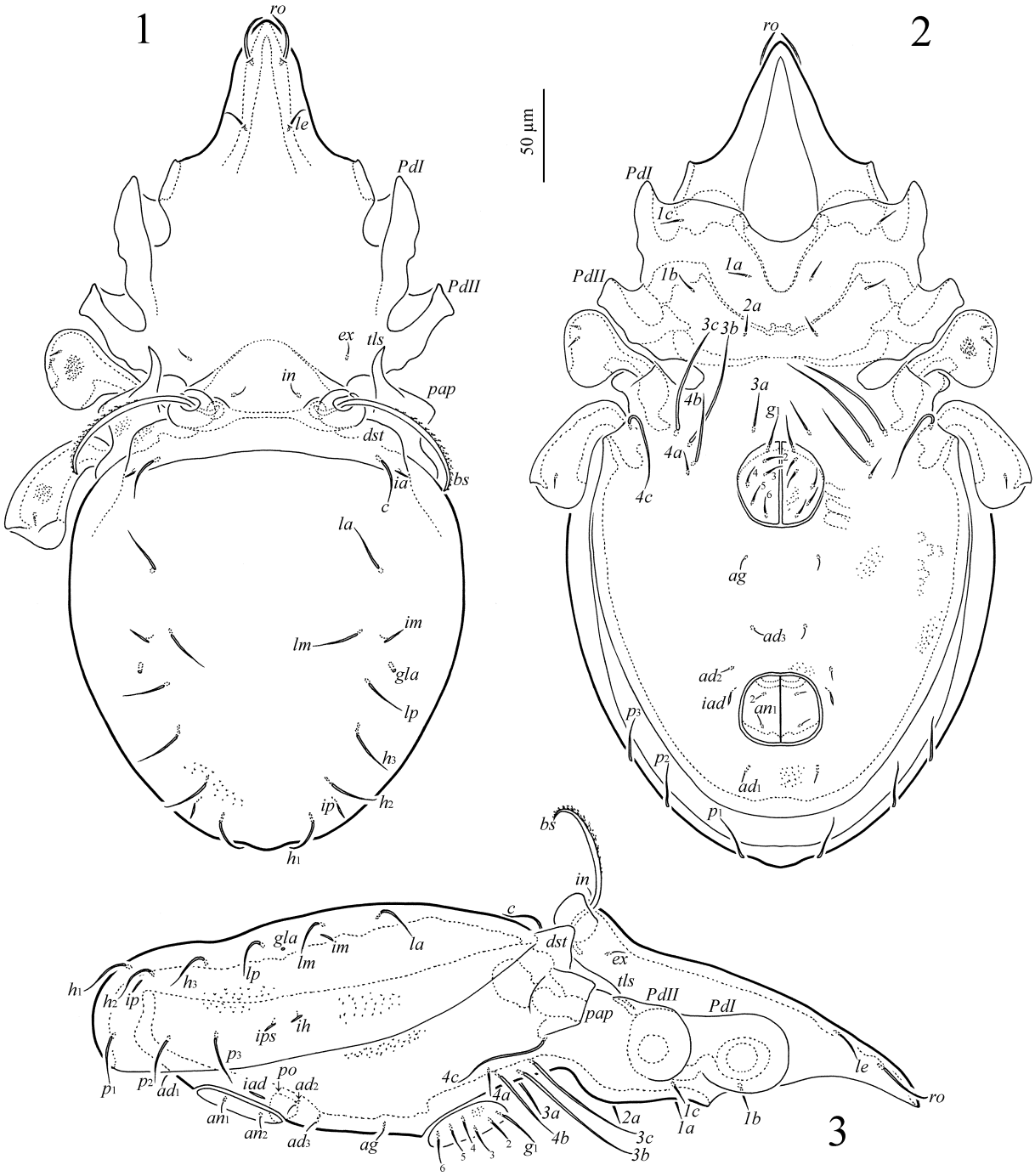
Body length 435–450. Body surface mostly densely microtuberculate. Rostrum rounded. Rostral seta setiform, indistinctly barbed. Lamellar seta setiform, thin, smooth. Interlamellar and exobothridial setae acicular. Relative length *ro*>*le*>*in*=*ex*. Bothridial seta long, nearly setiform, weakly expanded medially, with short cilia unilaterally. Dorsosejugal region with one pair of elongate tubercles. Humeral crista absent. All notogastral setae medium-sized, setiform, nearly smooth. Epimeral setal formula 3–1–3–3. Epimeral setae *1a*, *1b*, *1c*, *2a*, and *4a* acicular; other setae setiform, smooth; *3b* and *3c* longest. Podosomal apophysis large, nearly quadrangular. Strong thorn-like structure originating from podosomal apophysis developed. Three pairs of adanal setae.

Description

Sexual dimorphism – No significant sexual dimorphism was observed except body size.

Measurements – Body length 435 (male holotype), 435 (male paratype), 450 (female paratype).

Body width 213 (male holotype), 213 (male paratype), 225 (female paratype).

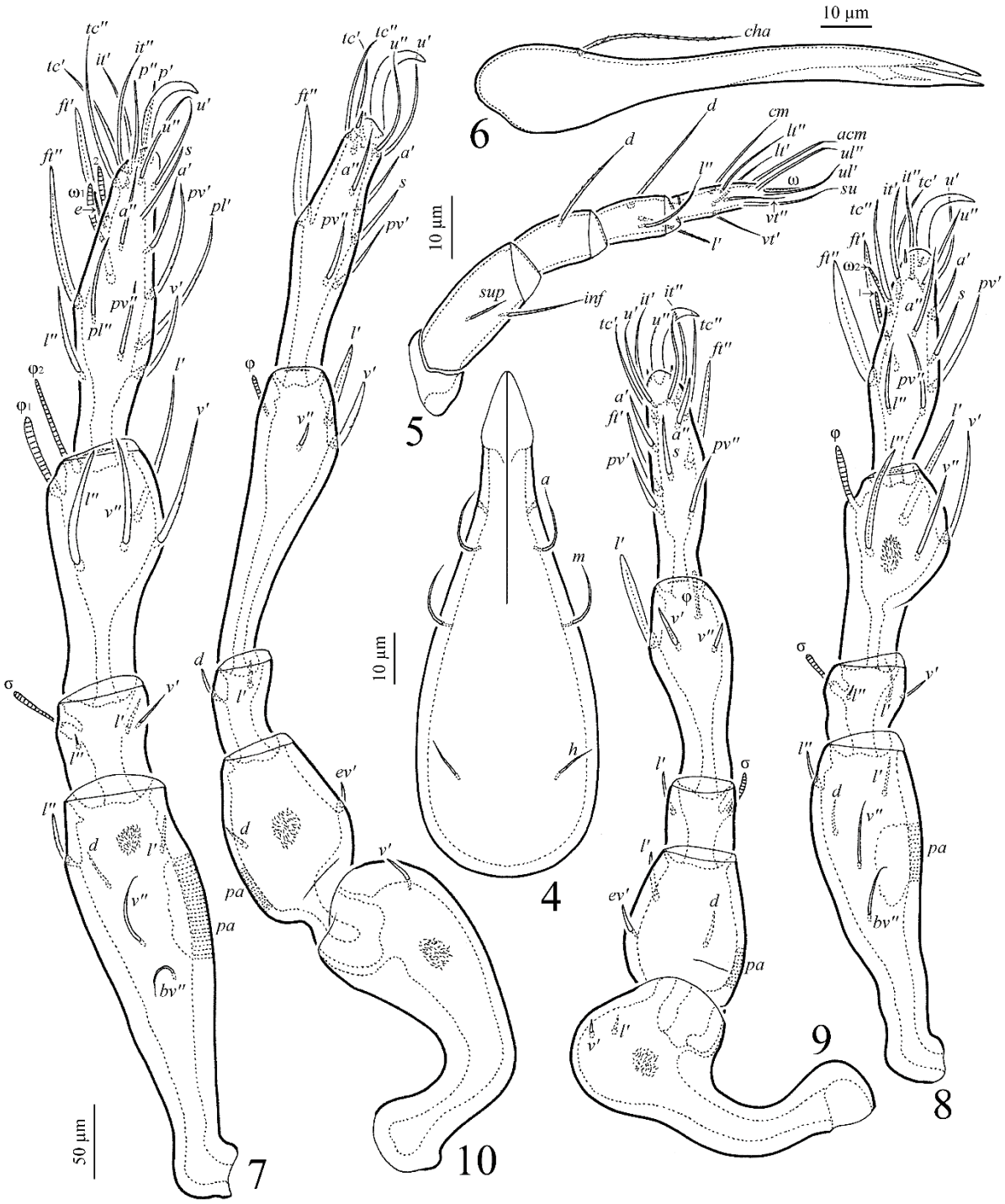


Figures 1–3. *Oxyamerus jambiensis* **sp. nov.** (adult) – **1.** Dorsal view (legs except some trochanters omitted); **2.** Ventral view (gnathosoma and legs except some trochanters omitted); **3.** Right lateral view (gnathosoma and legs omitted).

Integument – Body color brown. Body covered by layer of gel-like cerotegument. Surface mostly densely microtuberculate, with weakly visible tubercles. Leg segments partially covered with simple or elongate distinct microtubercles.

Prodorsum – Rostrum rounded. Rostral seta (26–30) setiform, indistinctly barbed. Lamellar seta (13–15) setiform, thin, smooth. Interlamellar and exobothridial setae (7) acicular. Bothridial seta (82–86) nearly setiform, weakly expanded medially, with short cilia unilaterally. Dorsosejugal region (not humeral region) with one pair of strong, elongate, transversely oriented, simple tubercles located close and lateral

to bothridium.



Figures 4–10. *Oxyamerus jambiensis* **sp. nov.** (dissected adult) – **4.** Subcapitulum, ventral view; **5.** Palp, right, antiaxial view; **6.** Chelicera, right, antiaxial view; **7.** Leg I, right, antiaxial view; **8.** Leg II, right, antiaxial view; **9.** Leg III, left, turned; **10.** Leg IV, right, turned.

Notogaster – Humeral crista absent. Ten pairs of notogastral setae (30–34) setiform, nearly smooth. Opisthonotal gland opening and all lyrifissures clearly visible.

Gnathosoma – Subcapitulum size 101–105 × 37. All subcapitular setae (*a*, *m* 15; *h* 11) setiform, indistinctly barbed. Palp length 71–75. Palp setal formula 0–2–1–3–9(+ω). Postpalpal seta absent. Chelicera length 101–109. Cheliceral seta *cha* (30–34) setiform, barbed; *chb* absent.

Epimeral and lateral podosomal regions – Epimeral setal formula 3–1–3–3. Setae *1a*, *1b*, *1c*, *2a*

(7–11), and *4a* (11–15) acicular. Other setae (*3b*, *3c* 71–75; *4c* 53–57; *4b* 41–45; *3a* 19–22) setiform, smooth. Setae *3b*, *4a*, and *4b* located close to each other. Podosomal apophysis large, nearly quadrangular, with weak lateral protrusion. Strong thorn-like structure originating from podosomal apophysis developed.

Anogenital region – Anogenital setal formula 6–1–2–3. Genital seta g_1 (19) setiform, thin, smooth; other genital setae (11), as well as aggenital (7), anal (7), and adanal (7) setae acicular. Adanal lyrifissure parallel and lateral to anal plate.

Legs – Claw of each leg strong, indistinctly barbed on dorsal side. Porose area on femora I–IV present, but poorly visible. Formulas of leg setation and solenidia: I (1–5–3–4–20) [1–2–2], II (1–5–3–4–16) [1–1–2], III (2–3–1–3–15) [1–1–0], IV (1–2–2–3–12) [0–1–0]. Homology of setae and solenidia indicated in Table 1. Setae *p′* and *p″* eupathidial (of tarsus I) or spiniform (tarsi II–IV). Seta *s* of tarsus I eupathidial. Some setae narrowly phylliform. Some solenidia slightly swollen distally.

Table 1. Leg setation of adult *Oxyamerus jambiensis* **sp. nov.**

Leg	*Tr*	*Fe*	*Ge*	*Ti*	*Ta*
I	*v′*	*d*, *(l)*, *bv″*, *v″*	*(l)*, *v′*, 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)*, *v′*, σ	*(l)*, *(v)*, φ	*(ft)*, *(tc)*, *(it)*, *(p)*, *(u)*, *(a)*, *s*, *(pv)*, *l″*, ω_1, ω_2
III	*l′*, *v′*	*d*, *l′*, *ev′*	*l′*, σ	*l′*, *(v)*, φ	*(ft)*, *(tc)*, *(it)*, *(p)*, *(u)*, *(a)*, *s*, *(pv)*
IV	*v′*	*d*, *ev′*	*d*, *l′*	*l′*, *(v)*, φ	*ft″*, *(tc)*, *(p)*, *(u)*, *(a)*, *s*, *(pv)*

Note: *Tr*, *Fe*, *Ge*, *Ti*, *Ta* = trochanter, femur, genu, tibia, and tarsus, respectively. Roman letters refer to normal setae, Greek letters to solenidia, *e* = famulus. 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.

Remarks

Oxyamerus jambiensis **sp. nov.** differs from other species of the genus by the presence (vs. absence) of a strong thorn-like structure originating on the podosomal apophysis.

Etymology

The specific name *jambiensis* refers to the type locality, Jambi, Indonesia.

KEY TO KNOWN SPECIES OF *OXYAMERUS*

1. Rostral seta nearly setiform 2
– Rostral seta phylliform (dilated in middle or distal half) 3
2. All centrodorsal notogastral setae short (*la* about 1/2 of distance between *la* and *lp*). Notogastral seta *c* well developed, similar in length to centrodorsal notogastral setae. Podosomal apophysis with thorn-like structure. Second adanal seta inserted anterior to adanal lyrifissure .... *Oxyamerus jambiensis* **sp. nov.** Body length 435–450.
– All centrodorsal notogastral setae longer (*la* about 2/3 of distance between *la* and *lp*). Notogastral seta *c* not developed. Podosomal apophysis without thorn-like structure. Second adanal seta inserted lateral to adanal lyrifissure ..... *Oxyamerus latirostris* Balogh, 1968. Body length 352.
3. Notogastral seta *c* well developed, similar in length to centrodorsal notogastral setae or slightly shorter 4
– Notogastral seta *c* short or not developed 6
4. All notogastral and second adanal setae bifurcate. Epimeral setae *1a*, *1b*, *1c*, *2a*, *3a*, *4a*, and aggenital setae phylliform. Lamellar seta short .... *Oxyamerus isabelaensis* Ermilov & Corpuz-Raros, 2017(a). Body length 448.
– All notogastral and second adanal setae not bifurcate. Epimeral setae *1a*, *1b*, *1c*, *2a*, *3a*, *4a*, and aggenital setae not phylliform. Lamellar seta medium-sized 5
5. Notogastral seta *c* bacilliform. Dorsosejugal tubercle (posterolateral to bothridium) absent. Epimeral setae *1a*, *1c*, *2a*, *3a*, and interlamellar seta spiniform. Adanal lyrifissure located lateral to anal aperture ..... *Oxyamerus niedbalai* Ermilov & Kalúz, 2020. Body length 332–348.

– Notogastral seta *c* setiform. Dorsosejugal tubercle (posterolateral to bothridium) present. Epimeral setae *1a*, *1c*, *2a*, *3a*, and interlamellar seta setiform. Adanal lyrifissure located anterolateral to anal aperture ..... *Oxyamerus konchuensis* Ermilov, 2025. Body length 360–390.

6. All centrodorsal notogastral setae short (*la* about 1/2 of distance between *la* and *lp*) 7

– All centrodorsal notogastral setae longer (*la* about 2/3 of distance between *la* and *lp* or longer)..... 9

7. Centrodorsal notogastral setae *la*, *lm*, *lp*, h_1–h_3 located on longitudinal granulate band. Bothridial seta smooth. Adanal lyrifissure located anterolateral to anal aperture .... *Oxyamerus aokii* Balogh, 1968. Body length 279.

– Centrodorsal notogastral setae *la*, *lm*, *lp*, h_1–h_3 not located on longitudinal granulate band. Bothridial seta serrate unilaterally. Adanal lyrifissure located lateral to anal aperture 8

8. Rostral seta dilated medially, narrowed distally. Adanal lyrifissure oblique to anal aperture and distant from it ..... *Oxyamerus himalayensis* Mondal & Kundu, 1999. Body length 430–442.

– Rostral seta dilated in distal half, rounded distally. Adanal lyrifissure close and parallel to anal aperture ..... *Oxyamerus spathulatus* Aoki, 1965 (see also Aoki 1977). Body length 440–515.

9. Three pairs of adanal setae present .... *Oxyamerus polilloensis* Corpuz-Raros & Lit, 2005. Body length 270–306.

– Two pairs of adanal setae present 10

10. First adanal seta inserted lateral to anal aperture. Notogastral seta *c* not developed. Notogastral setae *la* and *lm* located close to each other .. *Oxyamerus hauserorum* Mahunka, 1987. Body length 306–337.

– First adanal seta inserted posterior to anal aperture. Notogastral seta *c* well developed. Notogastral setae *la* and *lm* well separated from each other 11

11. Rostral seta broadly phylliform. Lamellar seta long .... *Oxyamerus hyalinus* Hammer, 1979. Body length 360.

– Rostral seta narrowly phylliform. Lamellar seta medium-sized .... *Oxyamerus truncatus* Hammer, 1979. Body length 470.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITATS OF *OXYAMERUS*

Twelve species of *Oxyamerus* are distributed across the Australian, Oriental, and southern Palaearctic regions (Table 2). Six species have a highly circumscribed distribution, i.e. are endemic to a single country: *O. himalayensis* (India), *O. isabelaensis* (Philippines), *O. jambiensis* **sp. nov.** (Indonesia), *O. konchuensis* (Vietnam), *O. latirostris* (New Guinea), and *O. niedbalai* (Malaysia). Four species (*O. hauserorum*, *O. hyalinus*, *O. polilloensis*, and *O. truncatus*) are distributed in the Oriental region. *Oxyamerus aokii* is found in both Australian and Oriental regions; and *O. spathulatus* is registered in both Oriental and southern Palaearctic regions.

According to the summarized data (Table 2), *Oxyamerus* species predominantly inhabit forest litter and soil; however, some species have also been recorded in other microhabitats (e.g., moss, rotten wood).

Table 2. Distribution and habitats of *Oxyamerus* species.

Species	Indicated habitats	Countries	Main references
O. aokii	Ground moss. Litter in a mixed forest. Litter in forest concessions and commercial plantations. Soil in a mixed pine dominated forest. Soil in a mixed forest dominated by deciduous trees. Litter in forest	New Guinea, Philippines, southern China, Vietnam	Balogh 1968; Corpuz-Raros 1979; Corpuz-Raros & Lit 2013; Ermilov & Anichkin 2014; Ermilov 2025; Ni *et al.* 2025
O. hauserorum	Litter and soil in forest. Rotten wood in a dipterocarp forest	Borneo, Brunei, Malaysia	Mahunka 1987, 1988, 2005
O. himalayensis	Soil under *Camellia sinensis*. Soil under the decomposed leaves of *Dalbergia sissoo*. Soil under rotten leaves of *Shorea robusta*. Soil from loose humus. Soil with litter in forest	India	Mondal & Kundu 1999; Ermilov *et al.* 2014
O. hyalinus	Grass and semi-rotten hay on the roadside. The route follows an almost dry brook	Indonesia, Vietnam	Hammer 1979; Ermilov & Anichkin 2014

Table 2. Continued.

Species	Indicated habitats	Countries	Main references
	running through a luxurious forest with tree ferns, *Zingiber* sp., shrubs, dead trunks, mosses, dead leaves, and various debris. Soil in a mixed pine dominated forest. Soil in a mixed forest dominated by deciduous trees.		
O. isabelaensis	Litter under a large tree on a side rock of a cliff. Soil in the fork of a large tree, with little humus and ants. Bamboo litter	Philippines	Ermilov & Corpuz-Raros 2017a
O. jambiensis	Litter in forest	Indonesia	Present data
O. konchuensis	Litter in forest	Vietnam	Ermilov 2025
O. latirostris	Litter and decaying wood in jungle	New Guinea	Balogh 1968
O. niedbalai	Litter in forest	Malaysia	Ermilov & Kalúz 2020
O. polilloensis	Moss and decaying log. Decaying coconut trunk. Litter, soil, and moss in forest	Philippines, Sri Lanka	Corpuz-Raros & Lit 2005; Corpuz-Raros & Gruèzo 2005; Ermilov & Corpuz-Raros 2017b; Ermilov *et al.* 2019
O. spathulatus	Soil in forest	Thailand, Japan, Taiwan	Aoki 1965, 1977, 1998; Nakatamari 1983; Ermilov & Liao 2021
O. truncatus	The route follows an almost dry brook running through a luxurious forest with tree ferns, *Zingiber* sp., shrubs, dead trunks, mosses, dead leaves, and various debris. Soil in a mixed pine dominated forest. Soil in a mixed forest dominated by deciduous trees	Indonesia, Vietnam	Hammer 1979; Ermilov & Anichkin 2014

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Author contributions: conceptualization, data curation, writing–original draft, visualization: SGE; investigation, writing–review and editing, methodology, data analysis, validation: SGE, DS, SS.

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Data availability: Data are available upon request from the author(s).

Ethics approval: This study only included arthropod material, and all required ethical guidelines for the treatment and use of animals were strictly adhered to in accordance with international, national, and institutional regulations. No human participants were involved in any studies conducted by the authors

for this article.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Generative AI statement: The authors declare that AI was not used at any stage of the manuscript development.

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افــزوده‌ای بــر شــناخت هرنــای اوریباتیــد جــنس *Oxyamerus* (Acari, Oribatida, Oxyameridae) به همراه توصیف گونهٔ جدیدی از اندونزی

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دبیر تخصصی
ا. جوهرچی

چکیده

جنس *Oxyamerus* (Oribatida, Oxyameridae) شامل ۱۱ گونه است که در مناطق استرالازیا، اورینتال (شرق آسیا) و بخش‌های جنوبی پالئارکتیک پراکندگی دارند. در این مقاله، گونهٔ جدیدی با نام *O. jambiensis* **sp. nov.** بر اساس نمونه‌های کنهٔ کامل جمع‌آوری‌شده از بستر جنگلی در سوماترا (اندونزی) توصیف می‌شود. ویژگی شاخص این گونه جدید، وجود ساختاری بلند و خارمانند است که از آپوفیز پاتنه‌ای (podosomal apophysis) منشأ می‌گیرد. همچنین، یک کلید شناسایی به همراه اطلاعاتی دربارهٔ پراکندگی و زیستگاه گونه‌های شناخته‌شده *Oxyamerus* ارایه شده است.

واژگان کلیدی: صفات مشخهٔ جنس، کلید شناسایی، اندونزی، ریخت‌شناسی، کنه‌های اُکسیامرید، آرایه‌شناسی

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