

SOUTH AFRICAN ACARI II

CHECK-LIST OF MITES IN OUR PARKS (PART I)

by

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The Parks of the Republic, with their different climatic conditions and with their great variety of plant species, provide ideal habitats for mites living on plants. It could, therefore, be expected that many different species of mites would be present in this multiplicity of available habitats. This expectation is fulfilled by the vast amount of material that has been collected during surveys in the Parks. Many of the mite species are new and whilst some have recently been described by the author, others await description. Further, the known species found in the Parks nearly all represent new locality records.

The phytophagous family Tetranychidae was represented by 13 species in the Kruger National Park, five in the Addo Elephant National Park, four in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, three in the Mountain Zebra National Park, two in the Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal), one in the Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park and one in Mkuze Game Reserve. Of the other phytophagous families, one species of the Tenuipalpidae and one species of the Tuckerellidae were found in the Kruger National Park.

An interesting phenomenon is that species of predacious families were much more abundant in the Parks than in cultivated areas where insecticidal sprays are applied. Three species of the family Tydeidae were found in the Kruger National Park, two species in the Bontebok National Park, two species in Golden Gate Highlands National Park, and one species in each of the Umfolozi and Mkuze Game Reserves and the Mountain Zebra National Park. One species of the family Cheyletidae was collected in the Kruger National Park and another at St. Lucia, Natal. The family Eupalopsellidae was represented by only one species but this was found in the Kruger National Park, the Mountain Zebra National Park, the Bontebok National Park and St. Lucia, Natal. Two species of the family Erythraeidae were collected, one in the Umfolozi Game Reserve and at St. Lucia, and one in the Addo Elephant National Park. One species of the family Trombidiidae was found in the Kruger National Park. Of the family Stigmaeidae four species were collected at St. Lucia, two species in the Bontebok National Park, and one in each of the Addo Elephant

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National Park, the Mountain Zebra National Park, Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park, Kruger National Park and the Umfolozi and Mkuze Game Reserves.

The important predacious family Phytoseiidae was represented by nine species in the Kruger National Park, eight species in the Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park, four species in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park and three species each in the Mountain Zebra National Park and the Addo Elephant National Park.

Suborder TROMBIDIFORMES

Family TETRANYCHIDAE

Bryobia praetiosa Koch

Kruger National Park: Skukuza and Pretoriuskop on *Trichilia emetica*.

Oligonychus grewiae Meyer

Kruger National Park: Mkuhlu on *Grewia* sp.; Nwanedzi River on *Grewia kwebensis* and *G. messinica*; S.70 on *Grewia* sp.; S.103 on *Grewia* sp.; near Malelane rest camp on *Grewia* sp.

Oligonychus grypus Baker and Pritchard

Kruger National Park: Klopperfontein (N. 25) on grass.

Oligonychus hadrus Pritchard and Baker

Kruger National Park: N. 237 and also Nwashitsumbe (N. 25) on *Combretum imberbe* var. *petersii*; S. 43 on *Combretum* sp.; the gorge of the Olifants River on *Boscia transvaalensis*.

Oligonychus pratensis (Banks)

Kruger National Park: N. 216 on grass.

Mixonychus acaciae Ryke and Meyer

Kruger National Park: Shingwidzi on *Acacia karroo*; Pafuri on *Acacia xanthophloea*; the gorge of the Olifants River on *Boscia transvaalensis*; Nyala on *Dichrostachys glomerata*; Letaba River on *Trichilia emetica*.

Petrobia harti (Ewing)

Addo Elephant National Park: On *Oxalis* sp.

Eotetranychus falcatus Meyer and Rodrigues

Kruger National Park: Punda Milia on *Hibiscus micranthus*.

Eotetranychus obtusus Meyer

Kruger National Park: Mlambane (S. 93) on *Ficus sycomorus*.

Schizotetranychus nesbitti Meyer

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On grass.

Schizotetranychus protectus Meyer

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Cliffortia linearifolia*.

Schizotetranychus asparagi (Oudemans)

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Asparagus africanus*.

Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Asparagus plumosus*.

Tetranychus cinnabarinus (Boisduval)

Kruger National Park: Malelane Rest Camp on *Hibiscus lunarifolius*.

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Helichrysum tenax*.

Addo Elephant National Park: On *Malvacea* species.

Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Ximenia americana*.
Tetranychus lombardinii Baker and Pritchard
Kruger National Park: Skukuza on *Sida cordifolia*; Pafuri on *Pupalia lappacea*.
Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Chenopodium murale*.
Addo Elephant National Park: On *Spathodea* sp., *Ricinus communis* and *Amaranthus* sp.
Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Morus japonica*.
Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Vigna* sp.
Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Maytenus cymosus*.
Tetranychus ludeni Zacher
Addo Elephant National Park: On *Malvacea* species, *Datura stramonium* and *Verbena* sp.

Tetranychus neocaledonicus André

Kruger National Park: Nwanedzi River on *Solanum* sp.; Letaba (N. 237) on *Croton megalobotrys*.

Tetranychus pafuriensis Meyer

Kruger National Park: Pafuri and the Shingwidzi River on *Commicarpus fallacissimus* forma *pilosa*.

Tetranychus amicus Meyer and Rodrigues

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Ballota africana*.

Mkuze Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Achyroopsis leptostaduja*.

Eutetranychus orientalis (Klein)

Kruger National Park: Letaba on *Ficus* sp.

Family TENUIPALPIDAE

Brevipalpus phoenicis (Geijskes)

Kruger National Park: Punda Milia on *Combretum zeyheri*; Pafuri on *Ehretia rigida*; near the road from Skukuza to Lower Sabie on *Lippia javanica*.

Family TUCKERELLIDAE

Tuckerella ornata (Tucker)

Kruger National Park: Shingwidzi on *Combretum hereroense*; Timfenenispruit on *Adina microcephala* var. *galpinii*.

Family TYDEIDAE

Pronematus ubiquitus (McGregor)

Kruger National Park: Pafuri on an unidentified wild plant; Crocodile River on *Nuxia congesta* and *Combretum* sp.; Timfenenispruit on *Gardenia spatulifolia*; Olifants Rest Camp on *Hibiscus? barbosa*; Shingwidzi on *Diospyros mespiliformis*.

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Morus japonica*.

Bontebok National Park: On *Melianthus* sp.

Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Acacia nigrescens*.

Mkuze Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Ptekopsis myrtifolia*.

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Dalechampia volubilis*, *Adenia gummi-fera* and on grass.

Tydeus grabouwi Meyer and Ryke

Kruger National Park: Timfenenispruit on *Gardenia spatulifolia*.

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Diospyros lycioides*.

Bontebok National Park: On *Acacia mearnsii*, *Struthiola argentea*, *Buddleia saligna* and *Prinum palmita*.

Tydeus munsteri Meyer and Ryke

Kruger National Park: Timbavati River on *Pseudocadia zambesiaca*;
Pafuri on *Croton* sp.

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Diospyros lycioides*, *Myrsine africana* and *Chrysanthemum* sp.

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Phyllanthus reticulatus* and *Rubus pinnatus*.

Family ANYSTIDAE

Anystis baccarum (Linn.)

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Rhus lancea*, *Diospyros lycioides*, *Rhus erosa*, *Salix* sp., *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Olea africana* and *Asparagus africanus*.

Bontebok National Park: On *Rhus undulata* and *Leucadendron* sp.

Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Trichocladus crinitus* and *Rumohra adiantiformes*.

Mkuze Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Grewia microthyrsa*.

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Trema orientalis*, *Scutia myrtina* and on grass.

Chaussieria capensis Meyer and Ryke

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Cliffortia* sp.

Family CHEYLETIDAE

Cheletogenes ornatus (Canestrini and Fanzago)

Kruger National Park: Pafuri on *Acacia xanthophloea* and the gorge of the Olifants River on *Boscia transvaalensis*.

Paracheyletia wellsii (Baker)

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Dalechampia volubilis*.

Family EUPALOPSELLIDAE

Eupalopsellus brevipilus (Meyer and Ryke)

Kruger National Park: Pafuri on an unidentified wild plant; Timfenenispruit on *Gardenia spatulifolia*; Crocodile River on *Nuxia congesta* and *Combretum* sp.; Olifants Rest Camp on *Hibiscus ?barbosae*; Shingwidzi on *Diospyros mespiliformis*; N. 237 on *Combretum imberbe* var. *petersii*; Mbyamiti (S. 93) on *Lonchocarpus capassa*; Lower Sabie road from Skukuza on *Lippia javanica*; Balule (C. 23) on *Trichilia emetica* and Tshokwane on *Solanum panduraeforme*.

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Rhus lancea*.

Bontebok National Park: On *Rhus macowanii* and *Buddleia saligna*.

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Canthium inerme* and *Rubus pinnatus*.

Family ERYTHRAEIDAE

Abrolophus vignae (Meyer and Ryke)

Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On grass.
St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Rubus rigidus* and on grass.
Balaustium medicagoense Meyer and Ryke
Addo Elephant National Park: Collected in decaying plant material.

Family TROMBIDIIDAE

Dinothrombium tinctorium (Linn.)

Kruger National Park: Collected in soil at Letaba.

Family STIGMAEIDAE

Apostigmaeus navicella Grandjean

Addo Elephant National Park: On *Schotia afra* and *Grewia* sp.

Eryngiopus bidens Meyer

Bontebok National Park: On *Elegia asperiflora*.

Pilionychiopus tutus Meyer

Bontebok National Park: On *Cliffortia ruscifolia*.

Stigmaeus sagenatus Meyer

Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Watsonia* sp.

Agistemus africanus (Meyer and Ryke)

Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Diospyros lycioides*, *Fingerhuthia africana* and *Asparagus plumosus*.

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On *Rubus pinnata* and *Dalechampia volubilis*.

Umfolozi Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Schotia capitata*.

Agistemus tranatalensis Meyer

Kruger National Park: On *Lonchocarpus capassa*.

Mkuze Game Reserve (Natal Parks Board): On *Grewia microthyrsa* and *Terminalia sericea*.

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): Charter's Creek on an unidentified wild plant.

Agistemus inflatus Meyer

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On grass.

Agistemus sanctiluciaae Meyer

St. Lucia (Natal Parks Board): On grass and *Dalechampia volubilis*.

Suborder MESOSTIGMATA

Family PHYTOSEIIDAE

Typhlodromus (Seiulus) acanthus Van der Merwe

Kruger National Park: Nwanedzi on *Grewia kwebensis*.

Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) capparidis V. d. Merwe

Addo Elephant National Park: On *Capparis citrifolia*.

Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) apoxys V. d. Merwe

Kruger National Park: N. 216 on *Combretum imberbe*.

Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) microbullatus V. d. Merwe

Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: Storms River Mouth on *Trimeria rotundifolia*.

Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) incisivus V. d. Merwe

- Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Dodonaea viscosa*.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) februs V. d. Merwe
- Kruger National Park: Pafuri and Shingwidzi on *Acacia xanthophloea*.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) saevus V. d. Merwe
- Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Leucosidea sericea*.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) bullatus V. d. Merwe
- Kruger National Park: Mlambane on *Ficus sycomorus*.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) paganus V. d. Merwe
- Mountain Zebra National Park: On *Rhus erosa*, *Diospyros lycioides*,
Brinus armeniaca, *Populus* sp., *Salix* sp. and *Melianthus comosus*.
 Addo Elephant National Park: On *Schotia afra* and *Rhus refracta*.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) praeacutus V. d. Merwe
- Kruger National Park: Crocodile River on *Nuxia congesta*; Shingwidzi,
 Mbyamiti (S. 93), Lower Sabie and Olifants River (N. 237) on *Lonchocarpus capassa*; Timbavati River (C. 47) and Mlambane River (S. 93) on
Euclea natalensis; Mhlumeni River on *Grewia flavescens*; Tshokwane on an
 unidentified wild plant; S. 103 on *Sida cordifolia*; N. 237 on *Croton megalobotrys*
 and Shingwidzi on *Combretum hereroense*.
 Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Buddleia* sp.
 Mountain Zebra National Park : on *Ficus* sp.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) buccalis V. d. Merwe
- Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Curtisia dentata*.
Typhlodromus (Anthoseius) rasilis V. d. Merwe
- Kruger National Park: S. 43 on *Combretum* sp.
Typhlodromus (Meyerius) veretillum V. d. Merwe
- Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: Storms River Mouth on
Solanum reprofexum.
Typhlodromus (Meyerius) maritimus V. d. Merwe
- Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: Storms River Mouth on
Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus, *Carissa bispinosa*, *Cassine papillosa* and a *Malvacea*
 species.
Typhlodromus (Meyerius) citimus V. d. Merwe
- Addo Elephant National Park: On *Sideroxylon inerme*.
Typhlodromus (Meyerius) agrostidis V. d. Merwe
- Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Trichocladus crinitus*.
Typhlodromus (Meyerius) convallis V. d. Merwe
- Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Pinus* sp.
Amblyseius (Amblyseius) krugeri V. d. Merwe
- Kruger National Park: Mlambane on *Ficus sycomorus*.
Amblyseius (Amblyseius) tutsi Pritchard and Baker
- Kruger National Park: N. 216 on *Ehretia rigida*.
Amblyseius (Amblyseius) pafuriensis V. d. Merwe
- Kruger National Park: Pafuri on *Croton* sp.; Pafuri and Timbavati on
Pseudocadia zambesiaca.
Amblyseius (Amblyseius) proluxus V. d. Merwe

Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: Storms River Mouth on *Malvacea* species.

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) anomalus V. d. Merwe

Tsitsikama Forest and Coastal National Park: On *Curtisia dentata*.

Amblyseius (Proprioseius) altusus V. d. Merwe

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Berkheya* sp.

Amblyseius (Proprioseius) ruberrus V. d. Merwe

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: On *Leucosidea sericea*.

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