

A new record of *Uroobovella* Berlese, 1903 (Acari: Uropodina) from Turkey with some ecological notes

by Ali Nafiz Ekiz and Raşit Urhan

Abstract. *Uroobovella fimicola* (Berlese, 1903) is recorded from Turkey for the first time. The morphological characters of this species are reviewed and several variations are noted. Its geographic distribution and habitat preferences are given. Seasonal occurrence, abundance and colonization of fresh and old compost samples are evaluated and compared. The effects of microclimatic factors on mite abundance, such as temperature, rainfall and relative humidity, are discussed.

Kurzfassung. Die Milbe *Uroobovella fimicola* (Berlese, 1903) wurde erstmals in der Türkei festgestellt und es werden morphologische Eigenschaften und verschiedene Variationen beschrieben. Die Verbreitung und Habitatpräferenzen werden dargestellt. Das jahreszeitliche Auftreten, die Häufigkeit und der Durchdringungsgrad in frischen und alten Kompostproben werden ausgewertet und verglichen. Der Einfluss mikroklimatischer Faktoren wie Temperatur, Niederschlag und relative Feuchtigkeit auf die Häufigkeit der Milben wird diskutiert.

Key words. Systematics, ecology, compost, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

Members of the Uropodina form a large closely related group of free-living mites with a cosmopolitan distribution (EVANS & MURPHY 1987). The genus *Uroobovella* is one of the genera with the highest number of species, and to date 256 species are known (WISNIEWSKI 1998, MASAN 1999). Most of these species are distributed in the Palaearctic region, but none has been reported from Turkey (HIRSCHMANN & WISNIEWSKI 1993). Four species of Uropodina, *Crinotidiscus (Oriendiscus) pawlowski*, *C. (O.) rafalskii*, *Nenteria stylifera* and *N. stammeri*, have been recorded from Turkey (ÖZKAN et al. 1988, BAL & ÖZKAN 2000). It is clear that we still know very little about the uropodid fauna of Turkey.

This paper presents a record of *Uroobovella fimicola* (Berlese, 1903) in Turkey, with a review of its morphological characters and distribution. In addition, the seasonal occurrence, abundance and colonization of this species in compost samples are evaluated. Compared with other mite groups, especially those known as agricultural pests, the ecology of uropodid mites is poorly known (see overview by KARG 1989).

Material and methods

In this study, compost samples dropped off on a field near a fruit juice factory were collected over a one-year period, from early November 2000 to late October 2001. Fresh and relatively old heaps of compost were selected and mites were sampled biweekly at these chosen habitats. As