# NEW FAUNISTIC AND TAXONOMIC DATA ON ORIBATID MITES (ACARI, ORIBATIDA) FROM THE VICINITIES OF SALT LAKES IN RUSSIA

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ABSTRACT: The present study is based on oribatid mite material collected from soils in the vicinities of salt lakes Medvezh'ye and Gor'koye, located in the south of Western Siberia, Russia. A list of identified taxa, including 29 species, belonging to 25 genera and 20 families, is provided. A supplementary description of the sexually dimorphic species *Galumna dimorpha* Krivolutskaya, 1952 is presented. The main morphological traits of this species are specified and summarized.

KEY WORDS: fauna, salt soil, taxonomy, morphology, sexually dimorphic species, Galumna, Western Siberia

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#### INTRODUCTION

This work is part of our continuing study of oribatid mites (Acari, Oribatida) inhabiting the vicinities of salt lakes (e.g., Ermilov and Khaustov 2021; Ermilov 2023). The article includes data on materials collected from the soil samples collected near the Medvezh'ye and Gor'koye lakes located in the south of Western Siberia, Russia. The main goals of the paper are: to present a list of the identified taxa; to redescribe *Galumna dimorpha* Krivolutskaya, 1952 (Galumnidae) on the basis of the Western Siberian material; and to summarize the main morphological traits of *G. dimorpha*, which will help with the identification of this species in the future.

Galumna dimorpha was described by Krivolutskaya (1952) from pasture soils in Kazakhstan. At present, the species is widespread in the Palaearctic region. It inhabits a variety of biotopes, preferring soil-litter in forests and meadows (e.g., Karppinen et al. 1986, 1987; Laskova 2001; Moraza and Peña 2005; Ermilov and Chistyakov 2006; Bayartogtokh 2010; Ermilov et al. 2022). The original description (Krivolutskaya 1952) and the supplementary descriptions (Pérez-Íñigo 1993; Bayartogtokh and Weigmann 2005; Weigmann 2006) of G. dimorpha were correct and the species is well discernible. However, the above descriptions were incomplete: they lacked the lengths of the body setae, as well as certain details concerning the gnathosoma, the podosomal region and the posterior notogastral area. Additionally, leg setation, leg solenidia, as well as detailed leg figures were lacking.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Specimens.** Soil samples containing oribatid mites were collected by hand from the following locations (Figs. 1–3):

L1. Russia, south of Western Siberia, Kurganskaya Oblast, Petukhovsky Rayon, vicinity of salt lake Medvezh'ye, 55°10'N, 67°55'E, steppe soil (a, b, c, d—10, 20, 30, 40 m from the lake, respectively), 14 October 2022, collected by A.A. Khaustov.

L2. Same, but different location, with coordinates 55°14′09.8″N, 68°01′13.6″E.

L3. Same, but different location, with coordinates 55°15′07.7″N, 67°58′55.8″E.

L4. Russia, south of Western Siberia, Kurganskaya Oblast, Shchuchansky Rayon, vicinity of salt lake Gor'koye, 55°24'02.0"N, 66°23'04.3"E, steppe soil, 14 October 2022, collected by A. A. Khaustov.

Mites were extracted into 75% ethanol using Berlese's funnels (without electric lamps) in the course of a seven-day period, in laboratory conditions.

Observation and documentation. For measurement and illustration, specimens were mounted in lactic acid on temporary cavity slides. All body measurements are presented in micrometers (µm); body length was measured in lateral view, from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior edge of the notogaster; body width refers to the maximum width of the notogaster in dorsal view; the lengths of body setae were measured in lateral aspect. 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 light microscope.

**Terminology.** Morphological terminology used in this paper mostly follows that used in the papers on *Galumna* (e.g., Ermilov 2022; Ermilov *et al.* 



Figs. 1–3. Photos of the locations and habitats of oribatid mites: 1, 2 — vicinity of lake Medvezh'ye; 3 — vicinity of lake Gor'koye.

2023). Additionally, see Ermilov and Klimov (2017) for leg setal nomenclature and for the overview.

Abbreviations. Prodorsum: L—lamellar line; S—sublamellar line; N—prodorsal leg niche; E, T-lateral ridges of body; ro, le, in, bs-rostral, lamellar, interlamellar and bothridial setae, respectively; Ad-dorsosejugal porose area; D-dorsophragma; P—pleurophragma. Notogaster: c, la, *lm*, *lp*, *h*, *p*—setal alveoli; *Aa*, *A1*, *A2*, *A3*—porose areas; mp-median pore; ia, im, ip, ih, ips-lyrifissures; gla-opisthonotal gland opening. Gnathosoma: a, m, h-subcapitular setae; or-adoral seta; *sup*, *inf*, *d*, *l*, *cm*, *acm*, *ul*, *su*, *vt*, *lt*—palp setae; ω—palp solenidion; as—axillary saccule; cha, chb-cheliceral setae; Tg-Trägårdh's organ. Epimeral and lateral podosomal regions: 1a, 3b, 4a, 4b—epimeral setae; PdI, PdII—pedotecta I, II, respectively; dis-discidium; cir-circumpedal carina. Anogenital region: g, ag, an, ad-genital, aggenital, anal and adanal setae, respectively; *iad*—adanal lyrifissure; *Ap*—postanal porose area; po-preanal organ. Legs: Tr, Fe, Ge, Ti, Ta-trochanter, femur, genu, tibia, and tarsus, respectively;  $\omega$ ,  $\varphi$ ,  $\sigma$ —solenidia;  $\varepsilon$ —famulus; d, l, v, bv, ev, *ft*, *tc*, *it*, *p*, *u*, *a*, *s*, *pv*, *pl*—setae; *pa*—porose area.

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

#### SYSTEMATICS

The list of identified taxa includes 29 species, belonging to 25 genera and 20 families (Table 1). The saline soils near the lakes Medvezh'ye and Gor'koye did not exhibit a unique faunal composition. On the contrary, all encountered species are widespread in the Palaearctic region (a similar situation was observed among the oribatid mites in the saline soils near lake Sivash—see Ermilov and Khaustov 2021).

#### Galumna dimorpha Krivolutskaya, 1952

#### (Figs. 4–34)

**Material.** Eight specimens (four males and four females): Russia, south of Western Siberia, Kurganskaya Oblast, Petukhovsky Rayon, vicinity of salt lake Medvezh'ye, 55°10'N, 67°55'E, steppe soil, 30 m from the water's edge, 14 October 2022, collected by A.A. Khaustov. All specimens are preserved in 70% solution of ethanol with a drop of glycerol in the personal collection of the first author.

**Description of adult.** *Measurements.* Body length: 570–593 (males), 600–660 (females); body width: 405–420 (males), 427–495 (females).

Integument (Figs. 22, 23, 25–34). Body color brown. Surface of pteromorph, anogenital region



Figs. 4–10. *Galumna dimorpha* Krivolutskaya, 1952, adult: 4—male, dorsal view; 5—male, posterior part of notogaster, dorsal view; 6—female, dorsal view; 7—medioanterior part of prodorsum, dorsoanterior view; 8—subcapitulum, ventral view; 9—palp, right, antiaxial view; 10—chelicera, left, paraxial view. Scale bars:100 μm (4–7), 50 μm (8, 10), 20 μm (9).

(including subcapitar mentum, genital and anal plates), mediobasal part of prodorsum, lateral part of prodorsum and antiaxial side (partially) of femora I–IV and trochanters III and IV with strong small tubercles and/or short ridges (sculpturing variable in specimens); notogaster and mediobasal part of prodorsum microgranulate (visible under high magnification: ×1,000).

*Prodorsum* (Figs. 4, 6, 7, 12, 20, 21). Rostrum rounded. Lamellar and sublamellar lines thin, parallel mediobasally and slightly divergent distally, *L* 

directed to lateral side of prodorsum. Rostral (49–56) and lamellar (30–41) setae setiform, slightly barbed; interlamellar seta (26–30) setiform, nearly smooth; in some specimens lamellar seta distinctly longer (up to 75), and interlamellar seta distinctly shorter (up to 15) or longer (up to 60); bothridial seta (135–150) setiform (Fig. 12) or with slightly thick-ened lanceolate distal part (Figs. 4, 6), barbed mediodistally; exobothridial seta not observable. Dorsosejugal porose area oval (22–34× 9–11). Dorsophragma distinctly elongated longitudinally.



Figs. 11–15. *Galumna dimorpha* Krivolutskaya, 1952, adult: 11—ventral view; 12—male, right lateral view; 13—male, posterior view; 14—male, posterior part of notogaster, posterior view; 15—female, posterior view. Scale bar: 100 μm.

*Notogaster* (Figs. 4–6, 12–15, 24). Dorsosejugal suture complete, convex, with slightly developed medial part. All notogastral setae represented by setal alveoli. Three pairs of notogastral porose areas in males vs. four pairs of notogastral porose areas in females: *Aa* oval (34–41 × 26–34), slightly elongate longitudinally, located near to pteromorphal hinge, anteriorly to *la*; *A1* rounded (19–26) or oval (24–26×15–19); *A2* and *A3* in males fused into one band-like (79–94×11–19) porose area vs. *A2* (24–41×15–34) and *A3* (30–45×19–34) separated, oval in females; in two males, left porose area A2+A3 (Figs. 5, 14) separated in two oval independent areas (as in females). Median pore absent in males vs. present as one foveola (between porose areas A1) in females. Opisthonotal gland opening and all lyrifissures distinct: gla anterolaterally to A1 and distant from it; *im* between *lm* and *lp*, equally distanced from them; *ip* between setal alveoli  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ ; *ih* and *ips* comparatively close to each other, anteriorly to  $p_3$ .

Gnathosoma (Figs. 8–10). Subcapitulum size:  $150-161 \times 135-154$ ; subcapitular (a: 26–30; m, h: 19–26) and adoral (15–19) setae setiform; a

slightly barbed; *m* and *or* barbed; *h* roughened; *h* thinner than *a* and *m*. Chelicera length: 169–187; cheliceral setae (*cha*: 56–64; *chb*: 34–37) seti-

form, barbed. Palp length: 112–120; setation  $0-2-1-3-9(+\omega)$ ; postpalpal seta (7) spiniform, nearly smooth.



Figs. 16–19. *Galumna dimorpha* Krivolutskaya, 1952, dissected adult: 16—leg I, left, paraxial view; 17—leg II, right, antiaxial view; 18—leg III, left, antiaxial view; 19—leg IV, left, antiaxial view. Scale bar: 50 µm.

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Figs. 20–34. *Galumna dimorpha* Krivolutskaya, 1952, dissected adult, microscope images: 20—mediodistal parts of lamellar and seublamellar lines, lateral view; 21—bothridial seta, lateral view; 22, 23—sculpturing in laterobasal part of prodorsum; 24—porose area *A*2+*A*3 in male, dorsoposterior view; 25–28—sculpturing of pteromorph; 29—sculpturing of lateral part of prodorsum behind rostral seta; 30—sculpturing of subcapitular mentum; 31—sculpturing of medial part of epimere I; 32—sculpturing of genital plate; 33—sculpturing between genital and anal aperture; 34—sculpturing of lateral part of anogenital region nearly circumpedal carina. Magnification: 1,000.

*Epimeral and lateral podosomal regions* (Figs. 11, 12). Epimeral setal formula: 1–0–1–2; setae (*3b*: 34–37; *1a*, *4a*, *4b*: 26–30) setiform, roughened. Circumpedal carina medium-sized, directed to insertion of *3b*, but distinctly not reaching it.

Anogenital region (Figs. 11–13, 15). Anogenital setal formula 6–1–2–3; genital ( $g_1, g_2$ : 22–30; others: 15–22) and aggenital (15–22) setae setiform, roughened; anal (9–11) and adanal (9–11) setae setiform, smooth; anterior edge of genital plate with two setae, but third seta located close to them; aggenital seta located between genital and anal apertures, equally distanced from them; adanal setae  $ad_1$  and  $ad_2$  posteriorly,  $ad_3$  laterally to anal plate; distance between  $ad_1-ad_2$  slightly shorter than  $ad_2-ad_3$ . Adanal lyrifissure oblique, located close to anterior half of anal plate and anteriorly to  $ad_3$ . Postanal porose area band-like (142–180×9–13).

*Legs* (Figs. 16–19). Median claw distinctly thicker than lateral claws, all slightly barbed on

dorsal side. Porose area on femora I–IV and on trochanters III, IV well visible; proximoventral porose area on tarsi I–IV and distoventral porose area on tibiae I–IV not observable. Formulas of leg setation and solenidia: I (1–4–3–4–20) [1–2–2], II (1–4–3–4–15) [1–1–2], III (1–2–1–3–15) [1–1–0], IV (0–2–2–3–12) [0–1–0]; homology of setae and solenidia indicated in Table 2; famulus straight, inserted close and anterolateral to solenidion  $\omega_1$ ; seta *s* of tarsus I eupathidial, located between paired setae *u* and *a*; solenidia  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  of tarsus II and  $\sigma$  of genu III bacilliform, other solenidia setiform or subflagellate; solenidion of tibia IV inserted in anterior part of the segment.

**Remarks.** Based on our redescription and on the original description (Krivolutskaya 1952) and supplementary descriptions (Pérez-Íñigo 1993; Bayartogtokh and Weigmann 2005; Weigmann 2006) of adult *G. dimorpha*, we propose the following diagnostic morphological traits for this species:

Body length: 570-660. Body surface slightly sculptured (partially with tubercles and short ridges). Rostrum rounded. Lamellar and sublamellar divergent distally, L directed to lateral side of prodorsum. Rostral and lamellar setae medium-sized, setiform, barbed; interlamellar seta comparatively short, setiform, nearly smooth or barbed; bothridial seta long, setiform or with slightly thickened lanceolate distal part, barbed; relative length: bs>ro>le>in. Dorsosejugal porose area present. Dorsosejugal suture complete. Three pairs of notogastral porose areas in males vs. four pairs of notogastral porose areas in females (Aa oval; A1 rounded or oval; A2 and A3 in males fused into one band-like porose area vs. A2 and A3 separated, oval in females). Median pore absent in males vs. present in females. Opisthonotal gland opening located anterolaterally to A1; lyrifissure im located between lm and lp. Epimeral and anogenital setae comparatively short, setiform, roughened or smooth. Circumpedal carina medium-sized. Aggenital setae equally distanced from genital and aggenital setae. Adanal lyrifissure close and oblique or parallel to anal plate. Postanal porose area band-like. Leg famulus straight, inserted anterolateral to solenidion  $\omega_1$ ; solenidion of tibia IV inserted in anterior part of the segment.

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		Locations							
Taxa	L1				1.0		T 4		
	a	b	c	d	L2	L3	L4		
Epilohmanniidae									
Epilohmannia styriaca Schuster, 1960	_	-	-	+	_	-	-		
Eunhthiracaridae									
Acrotritia ardua (Koch 1841)		_	_	+	_	_	_		
Steganacaridae									
Atronacarus striculus (Koch 1925)		+	+	_	_	_	_		
Autopacarus siriculus (Noch, 1855)									
Malaconothrus monodactylus (Michael 1888)	_	_	_	+	_	_	_		
Astonistidae				-					
Asteristas nilosus (Koch 1841)	+	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Thurisomidao									
Ranksinoma langgolata (Michael 1885)					_				
Dunksinoma lanceolala (Milchael, 1885)		1							
Deminically exercise (Mileslaire 1059)									
Minimula exempla (Minelcic, 1938)	-	_	+	_	_	_	-		
$\frac{Microppia minus (Paon, 1908)}{(0.1 - 1002)}$	-	+	+	_	_	-	-		
Oppiella nova (Oudemans, 1902)	-	+	+	-	-	-	-		
Suctobelbidae									
Suctobelbella acutidens (Forsslund, 1941)	-	+	+	-	-	-	-		
Tectocepheidae									
Tectocepheus sarekensis Trägårdh, 1910	-	-	-	-	-	+	-		
Passalozetidae									
Bipassalozetes bidactylus (Coggi, 1900)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-		
Phenopelopidae									
Eupelops torulosus (Koch, 1839)	_	-	+	+	-	-	-		
Oribatellidae									
Oribatella berlesei (Michael, 1898)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+		
Oribatella reticulata Berlese, 1916	-	+	+	+	+	-	-		
Achipteriidae									
Achipteria coleoptrata (Linnaeus, 1758)	-	-	-	-	+	+	-		
Ceratozetidae									
Ceratozetella bregetovae (Shaldybina, 1970)	-	-	+	-	+	-	-		
Latilamellobates incisellus (Kramer, 1897)	_	+	+	+	-	-	-		
Trichoribates novus (Sellnick, 1928)	_	-	-	+	+	-	-		
Humerobatidae									
Humerobates translamellatus Shaldybina, 1971	_	+	-	+	_	-	-		
Punctoribatidae									
Punctoribates astrachanicus Shaldvhina, 1973	_	_	_	_	_	+	_		
Punctoribates minimus Shaldvhina 1969	_	+	+	+	_	_	_		
Punctoribates heragonus Berlese 1908	+	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Oribatulidae									
Oribatula ambhyntara Barlese, 1016	_		_		_				
Scholaribatidaa									
Liebstadia similis (Michael 1999)	_	_	+	+	_	_			
Cabaloribatos Laguigatus (Vach 1925)									
Scheloribales laevigalus (Noch, 1855)	-	+	+	+		+	-		
Protoribates capucinus Berlese, 1908	-			+	-	-	-		
Galumna dimorpha Krivolutskaya, 1952	-		+	-	-	-	-		
Galumna lanceata (Oudemans, 1900)	-	+	+		-	-			

Table 1. Oribatid mites from the vicinities of lakes Medvezh'ye and Gor'koye.

Note: The plus sign (+) indicates the presence, and the minus sign (-) indicates the absence of the species.

#### Oribatid mites from vicinities of salt lakes

Leg	Tr	Fe	Ge	Ti	Та
Ι	v'	d, (l), bv"	<i>(l),</i> ν', σ	<i>(l), (v),</i> φ <sub>1</sub> , φ <sub>2</sub>	(ft), (tc), (it), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv), v', (pl), l'', $\varepsilon$ , $\omega_1, \omega_2$
II	v'	d, (l), bv"	<i>(l),</i> ν', σ	<i>(l), (v),</i> φ	(ft), (tc), (it), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv), $\omega_1, \omega_2$
III	v'	d, ev'	<i>l'</i> , σ	<i>l', (ν),</i> φ	(ft), (tc), (it), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv)
IV	v'	d, ev'	d, l'	<i>l', (ν),</i> φ	ft", (tc), (p), (u), (a), s, (pv)

Table 2. Leg setation and solenidia of adult Galumna dimorpha Krivolutskaya, 1952.

Note: Roman letters refer to normal setae; Greek letters—to solenidia (except  $\epsilon$ —famulus); single quotation mark (') designates seta on the anterior and double quotation mark (")—seta on the posterior side of a given leg segment; parentheses refer to a pair of setae.