

## New Arboreal Oribatids (Arachnida: Acari: Oribatida: Oripodidae) Collected from Broadleaf Evergreen Trees in Central Japan

Jun-ichi Aoki<sup>1</sup> and Yoshinori Yamamoto<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 3-8-12, Nishi-Azabu, Minatoku, Tokyo, 106-0031 Japan

E-mail: ja-muck@ma.rosenet.ne.jp

<sup>2</sup> Wakayama School for the Blind, 949-23 Fuchu, Wakayama, 649-6338 Japan

(Received 26 May 2007; Accepted 5 November 2007)

A new species and a new subspecies of oribatid mites, *Oripoda obliqua* and *Truncopes moderatus variabilis*, are described from Wakayama City, central Japan. These oribatids were collected by beating trees in a shrine forest. *Oripoda obliqua* is distinguishable from related species by its broad body, its sensilli being mostly covered, and its arched rostral margin. *Truncopes moderatus variabilis* differs from the nominate subspecies in its almost glabrous prodorsal surface, its humeral projections being half separated from the body outline, and its highly variable number of genital setae.

**Key Words:** Acari, Oribatida, Oripodidae, *Oripoda*, *Truncopes*, new species, new subspecies, Wakayama, Japan.

### Introduction

The main habitat of oribatid mites is the soil, but some species are arboreal. The members of the family Oripodidae, above all, seem to prefer trees to soil as their habitat.

The junior author collected oribatids from living trees by beating, thereby obtaining two species in a shrine forest in Wakayama City, Japan. These species belong to the genera *Oripoda* and *Truncopes* of the family Oripodidae, representing a new species and a new subspecies of *T. moderatus* Aoki and Ohkubo, 1974, respectively. These are described and illustrated below.

The Japanese species of the family Oripodidae were revised by Aoki and Ohkubo (1974), who described one species of *Oripoda* and four species of *Truncopes*. *Oripoda obliqua* sp. nov. is the second species of its genus in Japan, and *Truncopes moderatus variabilis* subsp. nov. is an additional subspecies of *Truncopes* in Japan.

### Materials and Methods

Arboreal oribatid mites were collected by beating tree branches. The collecting gear was designed by the junior author. A piece of square satin cloth (70×70 cm) is spread out by a pair of crossed rods. A square hole in the center of the cloth is blocked by a net that feeds into a metal funnel and polyethylene vial (Figs 1, 2).