

Review Article

Abundance and diversity of soil Oribatid Mites (Acari: Oribatida) from North-East India- A review

Abhijit Mandal^{1*}, Sandipan Das², Tapas Chandra Ghosh³

¹*Department of Life Science, Assam University, Assam 788011, India.*

²*Kailashahar, Unakoti Tripura, India.*

³*Dasaratha Deb Memorial College, Khowai-799201, Tripura University, India.*

**Corresponding Author's E-mail: mandal.abhijit94@gmail.com*

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ABSTRACT

The diversity and abundance of soil organisms significantly contribute to the ecosystems as well as in human welfare as we are very much dependent on the productivity of the soil. The oribatid mites are one of the most abundant species of soil microarthropods, spread all over the world and their effective role in soil ecological processes is indeed significant. Moreover, North-East (N-E) India is a hub of diverse life forms and rich in endemism with comprehensive ecological habitats that make it suitable to harbour a large number of organisms. The richness of soil mites in this region of the country has not been explored adequately and most of the part remains unexplored due to lack of survey, awareness of its beneficial role and scientific vigilance. In spite of the richness and abundance of fauna in this part of Indian subcontinent the acarine fauna of this region remain unattended by the acarologists for the reasons best known to them. The present work is a review article on Oribatid soil mites and is based mainly on the work done so far and recent studies from north-eastern states along with the records of its distribution and abundance to enhance the knowledge about this soil micro fauna, their distribution, impacts on soil health and gap areas that need to be explored in future.

Key words: North-East India, Oribatid mites, Diversity, Abundance, Distribution.