

Localization of Larvae of Chigger Mite *Multisetosa rybini* (Acariformes: Leeuwenhoekiidae) on Bodies of Small Vertebrates in Kyrgyzstan

*Alexander V. Kharadov*¹

¹ Department of Arthropod Zoology, Institute for Biology and Pedology, Nat. Acad. Sci.; 265 Chui Avenue, Bishkek 720071, Kyrgyz Republic; E-mail: alex-kh53@mail.ru, a-khar53@netmail.kg

Abstract: The *M. rybini* fed larvae 43 specimens were found in 43 individuals of 7 vertebrate species which belong to rodents, lagomorphs and reptiles. In total, 1 819 *M. rybini* larvae were collected (sampled in 12 sites); 1 510 of them were fed. The topography of feeding of mites revealed four areas on host's body, which are consolidated into three zones: the cochlea (on edge and inside an ear), genital-anal zone, and the throat. It was found that maximal number of *M. rybini* fed larvae occurs inside a cochlea, in September – 99.23% from general number of samples, while 99.76% of mites were found in Tamarisk gerbil. Therefore, the preferences of *M. rybini* is revealed both in the choice of a host and in the localization on a host's body. In one case there were found 509 simultaneously fed chigger mites larvae of 3 species of 3 genera and 2 families inside a cochlea of Silver high-mountain vole individual, 2.16% from them are *M. rybini*. *M. rybini* can feed simultaneously with 12 various chigger mites species (from 6 genera) on the same host individual. A conclusion was made, that *M. rybini* larvae tolerantly treat other species during the nourishment on the same host, and do not evince visible competition with chigger mites larvae belonging to other genera and even families.

Keywords: chigger mites' larvae, *Multisetosa rybini*, localization on a host, host-parasite preferences, simultaneous feeding.