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OCCURRENCE OF POMERANTZIA KETHLEYI
(ACARI: PROSTIGMATA: POMERANTZIIDAE)
IN ILLINOIS AND MINNESOTA

J. Kethley

ABSTRACT

The soil mite Pomerantzia kethleyi, is recorded from Illinois and Minnesota for the first time. The microhabitat of the Minnesota site is the first record of a pomerantziid from coarse sand-gravel near the surface.

Soil mites of the family Pomerantziidae are rarely collected because they tend to occur at depths that are difficult to sample. Two California species are deep-soil taxa having mean depths of 27.4 cm for P. prolata Price 1971, and 63.2 cm for P. benhami Price 1974 (Price and Benham, 1976).

Pomerantzia kethleyi Price, 1975, is known only from the type series, collected from clay prairie soil at a depth of 35–65 cm in Lake Co., Indiana. Two deep soil samples from Illinois and one surface soil sample from Minnesota have yielded additional material of P. kethleyi. ILLINOIS: Will Co., Goodenow Woods, 2 February 1974, W. Suter, one deutonymph from clay soil at a depth of 40–50 cm; Franklin Co., Fitzgerrel State Park, 25 October 1982, JK, one female from clay soil at a depth of 50–60 cm. MINNESOTA: Polk Co., 8.2 mi East of Crookston on U.S. route 2, 12 August 1986, JK, from coarse sand and gravel at a depth of 0–10 cm; the specific site is part of the eastern sand ridge formed by the Campbell Stage of glacial Lake Agassiz.

These new records significantly expand the distribution of P. kethleyi, and are suggestive of a considerable geographic range for this species. The specific microhabitat of the Minnesota site is the first indication that a species of Pomerantzia occurs in coarse sand-gravel near the surface.

LITERATURE CITED


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