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

J. Kethley¹

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.

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