

# The first records of five mite species (Acari, Mesostigmata) in Norway

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This paper presents five mesostigmatid mite species that are new to Norway's fauna. *Hypoaspis austriacus* (Sellnick), *Ameroseius longitrichus* Hirschmann, *Urobovella pullchella* (Berlese), *Urobovella vinicolora* (Vitzhum) *Discourella modesta* (Leonardi) were found for the first time in Sogn og Fjordane county in South Norway. Localities and occurrence in microhabitats according to literature are given.

Key words: Mites, Acari, Mesostigmata, South Norway, species new for Norway, Parasitengona, Gamasina, Uropodina

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## INTRODUCTION

According to a checklist by Gwiazdowicz and Gulvik (2005), 220 mesostigmatid mite species have definitely been recorded in Norway, and these are assigned to four suborders, 26 families and 74 genera. The Norwegian mite fauna is not expected to be as rich as the fauna of central and southern Europe, partly because of Norway's northerly latitude and harsh climate with a short growing season, and partly because Norwegian ecosystems are relatively young (have developed after deglaciation about 8000 years ago). So far only sporadic and piecemeal studies of the gamasid fauna in Norway have been carried out, and it is likely that more species in fact occur in Norway than have been recorded. We studied about 50 samples from South Norway and found five species new to the Norwegian fauna.

This paper is based on the study of Maria E. Gulvik's collection, belonging to Sogn og Fjordane University College, Department of Natural Science, Norway, and deposited in the museum's Heiberg Collections (De Heibergske Samlinger, Vestreim, Kaupanger) in Norway. Microslides of the species new to Norway's fauna have been deposited in the Museum of the University of Bergen (the Natural History Collections) and in the Heiberg Collections in Norway.

## METHODS AND MATERIAL

Material was collected from different vegetation types and microhabitats in South Norway in Sogn og Fjordane county. The soil mesofauna was extracted from the samples with a modified Tullgren funnel for six days. The specimens were collected in beakers of 75% ethanol, and then fixed