

An oribatid species *Provertex kuehnelti* Mihelčič, 1959 (Acari, Oribatida) new to Fennoscandia

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The soil living oribatid *Provertex kuehnelti* Mihelčič, 1959 was sampled for the first time in Fennoscandia in the western part of Norway at Dalsnibba (Møre og Romsdal). We found seven individuals in pit fall traps during the snow free period of 2009. The specimens were sampled on a ridge 1332.2m.a.s.l. Between 15 July and 12 August 2009 three adults, one shell of an adult and three juveniles of *P. kuehnelti* were sampled. Up until now, the species was only known from alpine sites in Austria, Northern Italy and the Czech Republic. The distribution of *P. kuehnelti* should therefore be regarded as boreo-alpine.

Key words: Oribatid mite, *Provertex kuehnelti*, boreo-alpine, Norway, Fennoscandia.

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† While working on this manuscript, Torstein Solhøy passed away unexpectedly. He inspired us to undertake the present study and contributed many comments and suggestions. We dedicate this publication to the memory of this outstanding person.

Introduction

The implemented pit fall trap sampling is part of our long-term alpine ecosystem research project (LTAER) in Norway (for further information sees e.g. Löffler 2003, 2005, 2007, Pape *et al.* 2009, Finch & Löffler 2010, Wundram *et al.* 2010). Here, we present our findings on *Provertex kuehnelti* Mihelčič, 1959, a species new to Fennoscandia. Altogether seven individuals of *P. kuehnelti* were found: MRI, Geiranger: Dalsnibba (UTM 32VL 409969.09 6879489.67) 15 July–12 August 2009,

leg. N. Hein.

Provertex kuehnelti was originally described as *Provertex kühnelti* (regarding the correct name spelling see International Code of Zoological Nomenclature 2000: Chapter 7: Formation and treatment of names, Article 32.5.2.1.) from Eastern Tyrol, Austrian Alps (Mihelčič, 1959). A detailed re-description based on the type specimen and additional material is given by Krisper & Schuster (2009). Mihelčič (1966) describes *P. kuehnelti* as a saxicole species that prefers warm and dry habitats.