

**NEW RECORDS OF THE FAMILY RHODACARIDAE (MESOSTIGMATA: RHODACAROIDEA) FROM EGYPT
NOVOS REGISTROS DE ÁCAROS DA FAMÍLIA RHODACARIDAE (MESOSTIGMATA: RHODACAROIDEA) DO EGITO**

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Rhodacaridae is a widespread mite group in the soil and in accumulation of decaying organic matter. These mites are commonly predators of nematodes, small insects, mites and springtails. Mites of this family are mainly characterized by the insertion of seta *st4* on the sternal shield, the desclerotised bands of punctate integument along anterior margin of sternal shield and the usual presence of scleronoduli on podonotal shield. In total, 151 rhodacarid species and one subspecies are known worldwide, arranged in 15 genera. Four of these species were described from Egypt, *Rhodacarellus citri*, *Rhodacarellus tebeenus*, *Rhodacarus solimani* and *Rhodacarus zaheri*. During a survey carried out in soil and litter of different parts of Egypt in 1997-2001, rhodacarid mites were collected and identified. Two species belonging to two genera were identified. All these species are new to science and their description is in progress. The species collected are: *Multidentorhodacarus* sp. n. and *Protogamasellopsis* n. sp.. A key for the known Egyptian rhodacarid species is being provided.

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