A new species of *Amblyseius* Berlese (Acari: Phytoseiidae) from Kerala, India

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**ABSTRACT**: During the course of investigation of phytoseiid mites inhabiting medicinal plants in North Kerala, a new species viz., *Amblyseius velayudhani* sp. nov. was identified and is described with appropriate illustrations. © 2016 Association for Advancement of Entomology


Predatory mites are a significant beneficial group on account of their role in the maintenance of pest mite population below economic injury level. Predatory mites of the family Phytoseiidae are recognized as one of the most valuable groups of predators on plant feeding mites, especially spider mites.

The erection of the genus *Amblyseius* was done by Berlese in 1914. The status of genus *Amblyseius* was made by Chant (1959), Wainstein (1962) again recognized *Amblyseius* and erected 7 subgenera and 8 sections. Genus *Amblyseius* is the largest group under the sub family Amblyseiinae with 400 species described from the world. Out of the 2436 phytoseiids from world, 195 species have been reported from India (Demite et al., 2014, Mallik et al., 2010).

The specimens under study were collected from infested leaves of medicinal plants and examined under stereozoom microscope. Mites were picked up with camel hair brush and permanent slides were prepared in Hoyer’s medium (Haderson, 2001). The setal nomenclature follows that of Rowell et al., (1978), Chant and Yoshida-Shaul (1989, 1991) and leg chaetotaxy of Evans (1963). Classification of Phytoseiidae followed is that of Chant and McMurtry (2007). Measurements are in microns showing means and ranges.

The specimens are kept in the P.G. & Research Department of Zoology, Malabar Christian College, Calicut and will be deposited to the National Zoological Collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calicut, Kerala.

*Amblyseius velayudhani* sp. nov. (Fig 1)

Female:

**Dorsum**: Dorsal shield 370 (350-400) long and 280 (250-290) wide, smooth with 17 pairs of setae and 2 small pores. Measurement of setae: j1-30 (28-32), j3-40 (38-42), Z4-90 (80-95), Z5-250 (220-255) s4-100 (92-104), other setae like j4, j5, j6, J2, J5, z2, z4, z5, S2, S4, S5, r3 and R1 are minute. Distance between j1-10 (9-11), j3-40 (35-45).

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