

Gamasina and Microgyniina (Acari, Gamasida) from soil and tree hollows at two traditional farms in Sogn og Fjordane, Norway.

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Gamasina and Microgyniina (Gamasida) from wooded meadows and wooded pastures in Sogn og Fjordane, Western Norway were investigated. Samples were taken from two different microhabitats: tree hollows in *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Ulmus glabra*, and from soil close to the trees. The mean density of Gamasida adults in soil was 9 106 ind. m⁻² at Grinde and 2 489 ind. m⁻² at Kusslid. The mean density in material from tree hollows was 641.7 ind. kg⁻¹ at Grinde and 67.8 ind. kg⁻¹ at Kusslid. Thirty-four species were recorded from the soil samples collected under the trees (26 species at Grinde and 13 at Kusslid), and 42 species from the rotten wood in tree hollows (38 species at Grinde and 12 at Kusslid). Twenty species were found in both microhabitats, 22 species occurred only in tree hollows and 14 species only in the soil. The relatively small number of samples in this preliminary survey revealed high species diversity of gamasid mites. The presence of pollarded trees appears to enrich the gamasid fauna of old cultural landscapes. In all, 57 species (54 Gamasina and 2 Microgyniina) from 13 families were identified. Of these, 36 species were recorded from Norway for the first time.

Key words: Gamasina, Microgyniina, wooded meadows, pastures, tree hollows, soil

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