

**THE *DIMIDIATUS* SPECIES GROUP OF THE GENUS *MACROCHELES* LATREILLE,  
1829 (ACARI: MACROCHELIDAE): INTRODUCTION, ORIGINS, INFRAGROUP  
RELATIONSHIPS, AND REDESCRIPTION OF *MACROCHELES DIMIDIATUS* BERLESE**

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**ABSTRACT** - The *dimidiatus* species group of the genus *Macrocheles* is morphologically defined and the ecology and origins of its phoretic associations with scarabaeid dung beetles in the New World are discussed. Species complexes and selected clusters of the *dimidiatus* group are keyed, and an expanded description of *Macrocheles dimidiatus* Berlese, based in part on examination of Berlese's type material, is presented. This paper will provide the basis for an upcoming taxonomic review of the *dimidiatus* species group.

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