

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *EREMULUS* (ACARI : ORIBATEI) FROM TRIPURA, INDIA

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SUMMARY: The paper contains the description of a new species *Eremulus indicus* from Tripura, India.

INTRODUCTION

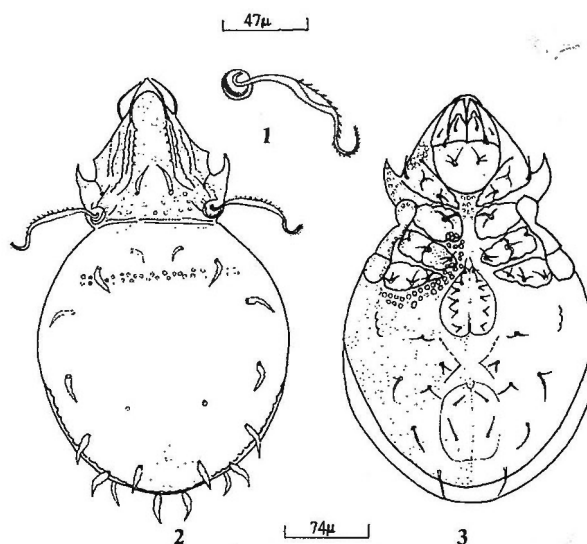
While studying soil oribatid mites of Tripura State, India since 1992, a new species viz., *Eremulus indicus* was collected and is described in this paper. The genus *Eremulus* was instituted by BERLESE (1908) with *E. flagellifer* as the type-species from Italy. Thirty species have so far been described under the genus. The family Eremulidae was first recorded by CHAKRABORTI *et al.*, 1973 from West Bengal, India with the species *Eremulus flagellifer*. Later several workers described and recorded seven species from Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal. Of the seven species of *Eremulus* known from India, three species viz., *gyotsnai* Sarkar, 1991, *nigrosetosus* Hammer, 1958 and *truncatus* Hammer, 1971 are known from Tripura. The type of the new species is deposited in the National Collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Eremulus indicus spec.nov.

(Figs. 1- 4)

All measurements are in micrometers (μm).

Colour of the body and legs light brown. Average length of the body : 344 (range 332-355) ; average width: 215 (range 192-235).



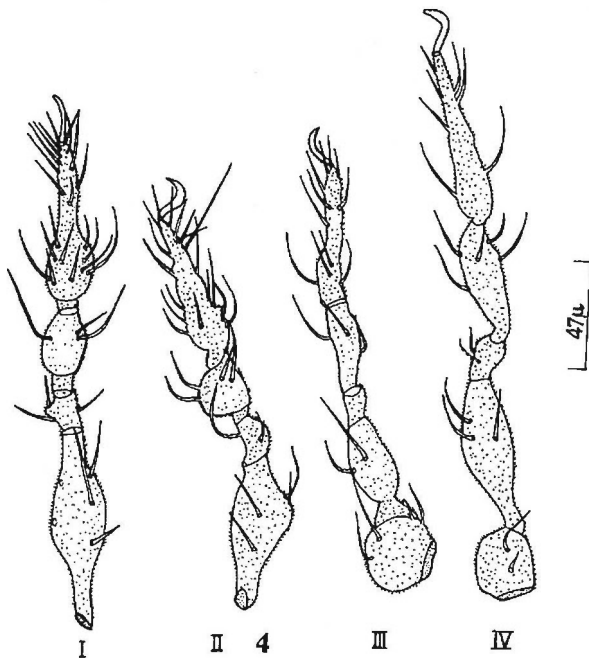
FIGS. 1-3: *Eremulus indicus* spec.nov., 1. — sensillus, 2. — dorsum, 3. — venter.

PRODORSUM: Prodorsum punctated, pits between bothridia; rostrum rounded, *ro* long (37), smooth, inserted laterally, bent medially and curved inward; *la* equal to *ro*, stiff, smooth, placed at tip of lamellar ridge, extended beyond rostral tip, curved inward, tips almost touching each other; *in* moderately long (22), smooth, located close together in middle of

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FIGS. 4 : *Eremulus indicus* spec.nov., legs (I-IV)

prodorsum and between pseudostigmata, slightly longer than their mutual distance (18.5); exopseudostigmatic setae short, thin, smooth; bothridium rounded; sensillus long (18.5), characteristically curved medially, considerably swollen with stiff spines, head ending in a thin whip like curve appearing like a hook; costulae parallel to each other, present slightly lateral to mid line of prodorsum; prominent lines originating from anterior portion of bothridium and extending above close to lateral margin of prodorsum; granules with pits between pseudostigmatic organ; tectopodium II well developed and horn like.

NOTOGASTER: Notogaster oblong with straight anterior border, scatteredly granulated, belt of pits across anterior part of notogaster loosely set; 10 pairs of moderately long (22-30) notogastral setae, stiff, strong, rather broad, broadest across middle, pointed at tip, distal half serrated.

EPIMERAL REGION: Epimeral region granulated and with pits of different sizes; epimeral setae formula 3-1-3-3, except *lc* all setae star-shaped with two or three branches.

Ano-genital region: Genital plate (length : 25, width : 48) granulated and with 6 pairs of bifurcate

genital setae arranged in longitudinal row; a broad curved band of foveolae in front of genital plates; ventral plate granulated; aggenital setae 3 pairs, branched; adanal setae 3 pairs, *ad*₃ (22) bifurcate with unequal arms, slightly smaller than *ad*₁ and *ad*₂ (26), *ad*₁ and *ad*₂ setaceous; anal plates (length : 78, width : 63) granulated, 2 pairs of setaceous anal setae.

LEGS : Tarsi monodactylous, claws evenly curved. Leg chaetotaxy : Leg I : 5-3-0-3-21-1; II : 4-2-0-4-17 + 1-1; Leg III : 4-2-0-3-11-1; IV : 2-3-2-5-7-1.

Material examined: Adult ♀, India : Tripura : Maharani (Udaipur), 4.iii.1992, from soil and litter of mixed type vegetation, S. SAHA. coll. Paratypes: 2 adults, ♀ ♀, same data as for holotype.

DISCUSSION

The species from Tripura resembles with *E. berlese* Mahunka, 1977 collected from Geneva in the shape of sensillus, nature of rostral, lamellar and notogastral setae. But this new species differs from Mahunka's species having smooth interlamellar setae, prodorsal and notogastral granulation, absence of prodorsal lath in between bothridium, more prominent belt of pits at the anterior border of notogaster, setiform *ad*₂, bifurcate genital and aggenital setae. The new species differs from *E. jyotsnai* Sarkar, 1991 described from Tripura in a number of characters like (i) longer and broader *in*, (ii) prominent lateral ridge originating from bothridium and extending above, (iii) granulated notogaster, (iv) distally serrated notogastral setae, (v) prominent belt of pits at the anterior border of notogaster. The present species also shows differences with *E. nigerisetosus* Hammer, 1958 and *E. truncatus* Hammer, 1971 recorded from Tripura in the shape of body, length of prodorsal setae, shape of sensillus which is swollen in *indicus*, and absence of irregular curved ridge in front of interlamellar setae.

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