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FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *VIETOPPIA*
IN THE PALEARCTIC REGION: DESCRIPTION OF
*VIETOPPIA (PARAGLOBOPPIA) MERCEDESÆ* SP. NOV.
FROM SOUTHERN SPAIN (OPPIIDÆ, OPPIIINÆ)

by Antonio ARILLO* and Luis S. SUBIAS*

**SUMMARY:** The genus *Vietoppia* is recorded for the first time in the Palearctic region. A new species, *Vietoppia (Paragloboppia) mercedesae* sp. nov., is described from southern Spain.

The genus *Vietoppia* Mahunka, 1988 has a little-known distribution. To date, it has been recorded in South Africa, Brazil, Vietnam and Senegal. The species belonging to this genus have a sensillus with a well-developed caput, ten pairs of notogastral setae (including c₂ setae) and the apodema 4 well-developed. The genus has two subgenera, which are easily differentiated: *Vietoppia* s. str. presents notogastral heterotrichy and the pair of adanal setae ad₁ are in para-anal position; whereas *Vietoppia (Paragloboppia)* Subías et P. Balogh, 1989 does not show notogastral heterotríchty and setae ad₁ are in a postanal position.

As a result of a study of oppiid mites that we have been conducting in recent years in southern Spain, we have found a new species belonging to *Vietoppia (Paragloboppia)*. This is the first record of the genus in the Palearctic region.

*Vietoppia (Paragloboppia) mercedesae* sp. nov.  
(Fig. 1)


Some of the specimens are preserved in semipermanent slides with Hoyer and the others are in lactic acid (70%). All of the material is stored in the

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« Colección de la Cátedra de Entomología. Dpto. de Biología Animal I. Facultad de Biología. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, España. » One specimen, stored in lactic acid (from sample Granada 37A), was designated as the holotype.

Size and colour: The specimens are 234–263 μm long by 109–128 μm wide; the colour is light brown.

Prodorsum (Fig. 1A): Rostrum protruding downwards and ending in a trilobate shape (difficult to observe). Rostral setae abruptly bent and strongly ciliated on their external side; alveoli close together. Lamellar setae well developed and unilaterally ciliated. Interlamellars well developed, al also ciliated but thicker than lamellars. Sensillus with a well developed, aciculate caput. Exobothridial setae well deve-
loped and ciliated. Lamellar and translamellar lines poorly developed, although present. Three pairs of bright spots between interlamellar setae.

Notogaster (Fig. 1A): Setae c₂ present, but poorly developed. Nine pairs of well developed and ciliated notogastral setae. Setae la appear before setae lm. Fissurae im present.

Ventral region (Fig. 1B): Formula of epimeral setae normal, 3:1:3:3, epimeral setae smooth and short with exception of setae 3b, 3c, 4b and 4c, which are longer and more or less ciliated. Genital plates with five pairs of genital setae, which are short and smooth. Anal plates have two pairs of anal setae well developed and ciliated like the pair of adgenital and the three pairs of adanal setae. Adanal setae ad₁ in a postanal position. Fissurae iad para-anal.

**Discussion**

SuBías & P. Balogh (1989) included two species in this subgenus: the type species (from South Africa) Vietoppia (Paragloboppia) diversiseta (Mahunka, 1985) and V. (P) trichotos (Balogh et Mahunka, 1977) from Brazil. The species from Senegal, Vietoppia (Paragloboppia) senegalensis (Mahunka, 1975), must be also included. V. (P) mercedesae is easily differentiated from the other three species. V. (P) trichotos is a larger species with a length of 730 to 780 μm. The other two species are similar in size to V. (P) mercedesae: V. (P) diversiseta measures 264-280 × 152-160 μm and V. (P). senegalensis 204-230 × 110-134 μm.

V. (P) diversiseta shows several differences to V. (P) mercedesae. Its rostral setae are arched, rather than bent, and their alveoli are very far apart. The rostrum is not protruding and the lamellar and interlamellar setae are very short. The sensillus has a tail and a shorter caput. Finally, the notogastral and ventral setae are short and smooth.

V. (P) senegalensis does not have a protruding rostrum and the rostral setae are not bent abruptly, the lamellar and interlamellar setae are smooth, the sensillus has a tail and a shorter caput and the notogastral setae are smooth.

There is another genus, Taiwanoppia Tseng, 1982, described by Tseng (1982) in a paper not considered by SuBías & Balogh (1989). Although the description of Taiwanoppia is not very good, it seems identical to Vietoppia, so it is possible that Vietoppia could represent a junior synonym of Taiwanoppia.

**Derivatio nominis:** The name of the species is dedicated to Mercedes López Santamaría.

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**References**
