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NEW GENERA AND SPECIES OF RHYNCAPHYTOPTIDAE (ERIOPHYOIDEA)
WITH KEY TO SUBFAMILIES AND GENERA

by S. CHAKRABARTI *, BASUDEV GHOSH * and B. DAS *

ABSTRACT : Two new genera, Neocatarhinus and Pseudodiptacus, and four new species, Neocatarhinus ficusis, Diptilomiopus cuminis, D. leeasis and Pseudodiptacus litseae, are described from West Bengal, India. Relationships of the new genera and species with other known ones and host-eriophyd relationships are discussed. A synoptic key to the world genera under Rhyneaphytoptidae are also provided.

INTRODUCTION

The family Rhyncaphytoptidae Keifer (1961), under the Superfamily Eriophyoidea, comprises two subfamilies, Rhynca­phytoptinae Roivaine (1953) and Diptilomiopinae Newkirk and Keifer (1971). As many as 12 genera under Rhyncaphytoptinae and 16 genera under Diptilomiopinae are known from different global parts.

In India, the members of 2 genera, Hyboderus Keifer and Rhyncaphytoptus Keifer under Rhynca­phytoptinae, and 5 genera, Diptilomiopus Nalepa, Diptilorhynacus Mondal et al., Neodialox Mohanasundaram, Neodiptilomiopus Mohanasundaram and Neorhynacus Mohanasundaram under Diptilomiopinae, are known.

Mohanasundaram (1982), while describing a genus Neodiptilomiopus, provided a key to the genera of Diptilomiopinae. However, this key did not accommodate all the known genera. In addition some characters used in the key do not fit well with the available description of some genera.

In this paper, two new genera, Neocatarhinus and Pseudodiptacus, and 4 new species, Neocatarhinus ficusis infesting Ficus sp., Diptilomiopus eugentisis infesting Syzygium cumini L., D. leeasis infesting Leea macrophylla Hormem, Pseudodiptacus litseae infesting Litsea sp., are described from West Bengal, India. A synoptic key to the genera of this family from all over the world is also provided.

All type materials of the new species described in this paper are deposited presently in the collection of Biosystematics Research Unit, Department of Zoology, University of Kalyani, Kalyani 741 235, India.

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FAMILY RHYNCPHYTOPITIDAE

KEY TO THE SUBFAMILIES AND GENERA

1. Featherclaw undivided or simple: Rhyncaphytoptinae Roivainen. Type genus: Rhyncaphytoptus Keifer

2. Legs with all usual setae ............ 3

3. Featherclaw complex, palmate; broad middorsal longitudinal trough present ............. Cheiracus Keifer. Type species: C. sulcatus Keifer

4. Middorsal thanosome unevenly serrated in lateral view ............. Quadracus Keifer. Type species: Phyllocoptes urticae Canestrini and Massalongo:

5. A deep notch present between shield and first tergite; lateral tergal edge with fine points .......... Peralox Keifer. Type species: P. insolita Keifer

6. Tergites on thanosome wider than sternites .... 7

7. First coxal setiferous tubercles absent; a short seta present at the base of rostrum; dorsal tubercles displaced to anterolateral position of the shield. Hyboderus Mohanasundaram. Type species: H. kallarensis Mohanasundaram.

8. Anterior shield with an elongated lobe; body uniformly arched and without any projection or trough. Stenarhyncus Mohanasundaram. Type species: S. aristidus Mohanasundaram.


10. First coxal setiferous tubercles absent ............. Neocatarhinus gen. nov. Type species: N. ficulnis sp. nov. All coxal setiferous tubercles present ................ 11

11. Dorsal tubercles displaced on antero-lateral area of shield surface, setae directed divergently forward; hind patellar seta absent; shield lobe broadly rounded. Hyboderus Keifer. Type species: H. roseus Keifer. Dorsal tubercles placed near or ahead of rear shield margin; setae directed antero-central; hind patellar seta present; anterior shield lobe either long or centrally grooved .................. 12


13. Dorsal shield setae absent ............. 14

14. All coxal setae and tubercle present; lateral seta present; anterior shield lobe present ............. 15


16. Patella absent or partially fused with femur .......... Diptilomiopus Nalepa. Type species: D. javanicus Nalepa. Patella distinctly present; legs with all usual segments ....................... 17

17. Second coxal setiferous tubercles absent; anterior coxae fused with the base of the rostrum ....... Neodiptilomiopus Mohanasundaram. Type species: N. vishakantai Mohanasundaram.

18. First ventral seta present; tarsal setae not sinuate and stout ............. Rhyncus Keifer. Type species: Diptilomiopus arc tostaphyli Keifer. First ventral seta absent; tarsal setae stout and sinuate. ............. Diptilorhynacus Mondal, Ghosh and Chakrabarti. Type species: D. simusetus Mondal, Ghosh and Chakrabarti.
19. First coxal setiferous tubercles absent; lateral abdominal seta absent .......... 20

**Pseudodiptacus** gen. nov. Type species: *Neorhynacus combretis* Ghosh and Chakrabarti.

Three pairs of coxal setiferous tubercles present; lateral abdominal seta may or may not be present .......... 20

20. Lateral abdominal setae absent .......... 21
Lateral abdominal setae present .......... 22

21. Patellar seta present .......... 23
Patellar seta absent .......... 22

**Neorhynacus** Mohanasundaram. Type species: *N. rajendrai* Mohanasundaram.

Patellar seta absent .......... *Acarhis* Keifer. Type species: *A. lepisanthis* Keifer.

22. Anterior shield lobe extra long, as long as shield or longer; femoral seta present .......... *Bucculacus* Boczek. Type species: *B. kawecki* Boczek.

Anterior shield lobe not extra long; femoral seta absent, at least from foreleg .. 23


Middorsal thanosomal ridge simple, that is undivid ed .......... 24


Anterior shield lobe without any filament-like projection over rostrum .......... 25

25. Featherclaw deeply divided and with a short central stem and 2-rayed; body dorsoventrally flattened; anterior shield lobe with spines .......... *Diptiloplatius* Keifer. Type species: *D. megasasistris* Keifer.

Featherclaw deeply divided but without any central stem; body more or less circular in cross section; anterior shield lobe without any projection .. 26

26. Two transverse grooves on the rear part of shield present; dorsal shield setae short .......... *Dialox* Keifer. Type species: *D. stellatus* Keifer.

Transverse grooves or depression on the shield absent, if present it is between the rear margin of shield and first tergite .. 27


Thanosomal ridges without noticeably extra thickenings but in some species body covered with flocculent wax .......... 28

*Diptacus* Keifer. Types species: *Diptilomiopus sacra mentae* Keifer.

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**NOTE:**

**NALEPA** (1922) described *phyllocoptycyes gallicolus* and *Phylocoptes longirostris* from *Ulmus pedunculata* Foug. and *U. campestris* L. respectively. **KEIFER** (1939) described the genus *Rhyncaphytopius* and included *longirostris* under this genus. **KEIFER** (1975) was of opinion that *gallicolus* which was found in association with *longirostris* may be the deutogyne of the latter. Since there is no experimental evidence *longirostris* is included under *Rhyncaphytopius* Keifer (1939) while *gallicolus* is still now under *Phyllocoptycyes*. Details of *Phyllocoptycyes* being unknown, it has not been included under key to the genera.

**Neocatarhinus** nov. gen.

Body generally spindleform. Rostrum large, projecting diagonally back in between coxae; chelicerae long, abruptly bent at right angle to the axis; oral stylet long form; shield anteriorly semicircular and lacking anterior shield lobe; dorsal tubercles set on rear shield margin and directing shield setae up and forward; forecoxae contiguous and with a sternal line; first setiferous coxal tubercles absent; legs with all usual setae except femoral setae; featherclaw simple. Abdomen with a middorsal ridge; both tergites and sternites microtuberculated; tergites less numerous than sternites; ventral thanosome with all standard setae; female genitalia located in normal position and internal apodeme of moderate length.

**Type species**: *Neocatarhinus ficusis* sp. nov.

**Remarks**: Among the genera of Rhyncaphytopiinae the present genus comes close to *Catarhinus* Keifer (1959a) and *Asetacus* Keifer (1952) due to absence of femoral setae. However, *Catarhinus* differs from *Neocatarhinus* gen. nov. in having dorsal tubercles well ahead of rear shield margin, setae directed up, presence of first coxal setiferous tubercles and hind femoral seta and *Asetacus* in lacking dorsal setiferous tubercles and having first setiferous coxal tubercles.

**Distribution**: India.

**Host**: Moraceae.
**Neocatarhinus ficusis** sp. nov. **
(Fig. 1)

**Female**: Body 172.8 (120-180) long, 74.4 (55-84) wide; spindle shaped and pinkish brown in colour. Rostrum 39.5 (34-45) long, projecting downward with apex turned caudad; chelicerae large and abruptly bent at right angle to body; subapical setae 11.5 (8-12) long. Shield more or less oval shaped and semicircular anteriorly, smooth, 31.04 (26-34) long and 40.7 (38-50) wide; dorsal tubercles on rear shield margin; dorsal setae 9.7 (6.12) long, 22.3 (17-26) apart from each other and directed forward. Forelegs 35.0 (32-38) long from trochanter base; femur 10.6 (9-12) long without seta; patella 4.9 (4-6) long, with seta 29.1 (23-31) long; tibia 10.7 (8-12) long, with seta 8.7 (6-9) long; tarsus 7.8 (7-11) long, with setae 13.6 (11-21) long; claw 7.8 (6-11) long and knobbed; featherclaw simple and 5-rayed. Hindlegs 31.0 (29-36) long from trochanter base; femur 7.8 (6-10) long without seta; patella 3.9 (3-6) long with seta 14.6 (12-19) long; tibia 8.7 (6-10) long; tarsus 7.8 (6-10) long, with setae 15.5 (12-18) long; other characters as in forelegs. Forecoxae connate, sternal line distinct

**Fig. 1**: *Neocatarhinus ficusis* sp. nov.

**All measurements are expressed in micrometer (μm) unless otherwise mentioned. Measurements of holotype is followed by the measurements of paratypes in parenthesis.**
and first setiferous coxal tubercles absent; second
coxal tubercles ahead of line across the third coxal
tubercles.

Abdomen with 52 (48-53) tergites and 66 (64-69)
sternites, both tergites and sternites are microtuber-
culated; thanosome with a faint middorsal ridge;
lateral setae 19.4 (17-27) long, on about sternite 9;
first ventral setae 31.0 (26-38) long, on about
sternite 34; second ventral setae 23.3 (18-29) long,
on about sternite 44; third ventral setae 32.0 (25-
36) long, on about sternite 62; caudal setae 89.2
(58-92) long; accessory setae 5.8 (4-7) long. Genitalia
15.5 (15.5-22) wide, 15.5 (12-27) long; coverflap
smooth, except for a pair of transverse lines on
anterior part, and genital setae 5.8 (5-10) long.

Male: Unknown.

Holotype: ♂ (marked), INDIA: WEST BENGAL:
Midnapore, Raghunathbari, 23 XI.1981 from
Ficus sp. (Moraceae) on slide (No. 494/165/81, coll.
B. GHOSH).

Paratypes: 10 ♀, on the holotypic slide and on
1 slide (No. 495/165/81), collection data as for
holotype; 8 ♀, WEST BENGAL: Howghly, Kha-
lisani, 13XI.1981 from Ficus sp. on 1 slide (No.
496/166/81), coll B. GHOSH. Additional material of
this species were also collected subsequently from
Howghly, Khalisani, on 16 XII.1981 and 19 XII.1981
from Ficus sp.

Relation to the host plant: This mite species was
found on the ventral surface of leaves within the
hairs. No damage symptom was noticed.

Diptilomiopus cuminis sp. nov.

(Fig. 2)

Female: Body 168 (108-180) long, 84 (60-90)
wide; fusiform, brownish in colour. Rostrum 51.0
(41-53) long, strongly curved down; subapical seta
10.78 (8-11) long. Shield more or less oval shaped,

FIG. 2 : Diptilomiopus cuminis sp. nov.
declined anteriorly, 29.4 (18-30) long and 65.7 (51-66) wide; shield design represents a clear network; median line present but lacking on the central cell region; admedian and submedian lines forming cells; on each half of shield anterior tier with 6 cells including lateral shield cell; posteriorly three cells, their bases forming a weak diagonal line arising from rear of lateral shield cells, running caudad and meeting shield margin; dorsal tubercles small, a little ahead of rear shield margin and without setae. Forelegs 39.2 (36-41) long from trochanter base; patella fused with femur, 13.7 (11-15) long and without seta; tibia 5.9 (5-8) long; tarsus 8.82 (8-10) long, with a long seta 31.7 (22-35) long and a short lower tarsal seta 5.9 (5.9-11) long; other characters as in foreleg. Anterior coxae contiguous, sternal line distinct; both coxae ornamented with granules and hind coxae with some irregular lines; first setiferous coxal tubercles absent; second setiferous coxal tubercles ahead of the line across third coxal tubercles. Abdomen with 57 (54-59) smooth tergites and 70 (69-75) microtuberculated sternites; dorsal thanosome with a weak median ridge; microtubercules more or less round and located within the ring margin; lateral seta absent; first ventral seta 11.8 (10-14) long, on about sternite 29; second ventral seta 10.8 (10.8-15) long, on about sternite 42; third ventral seta 29.4 (25-37) long, on about sternite 61; caudal seta 32.3 (32.3-46) long; accessory seta absent. Genitalia 19.6 (19-25) long, 26.5 (22-26.5) wide; genital coverflap smooth; genital seta 5.9 (5-8) long. 

Male: Unknown.

Holotype: ♀ (marked), INDIA: WEST BENGAL: Bankura, Dubrakone, 20.xii.1980 from Syzygium cumini L. (Myrtaceae), on slide (No. 537/109/80), coll. B. GHOSH.

Paratypes: 17 ♀♀, on the holotypic slide and 3 slides (No.538-540/109/80), collection data as for holotype. Additional material of this species were also subsequently collected on 28.vii.1981 and 15.xii.1981 from same host and locality.

Distribution: India: West Bengal.

Relation to the host plant: The mites were found on the ventral surface of leaves along with Tegono­tus jamboleensis Mondal et al. (1982). Due to heavy infestation some yellowish patches developed on leaves. Remarks: The two new species D. cuminis and D. leeasis included in this paper belong to the group of Diptolomius species having characteristics reticulated netlike shield design. In this groups as many as sixteen species including thirteen Indian species can be found. Among these species D. cuminis in having six rayed featherclaw comes close to D. camerae Mohanasundaram (1981), D. gilibertae Kadono (1984), D. guajavae Mohanasundaram (1984) and D. jevremovici Keifer (1960). However, D. camerae and D. gilibertae differ from D. cuminis in having fused forecoxae and basally dotted genital coverflap, D. guajavae differs in having forecoxae separated by wide sternal gap, D. jevremovici differs in having basally granulated coverflap and complete median line. There are two other species of Diptolomius in this group with six rayed featherclaws viz. davisii and holmesi, but in these species the shield design is different. The status of D. guajavae Mohanasundaram needs confirmation since the author indicated presence of fused tibiotarsus in this species.

Diptolomius leeasis sp. nov. 
(Fig. 3)

Female: Body 171 (144-209) long, 83.6 (68-95) wide; robust, fusiform, brownish in colour. Ros­trum 48 (39-50) long, curved down; subapical seta 10.2 (8-12) long. Shield more or less oval shaped, 27 (22-32) long and 55.5 (45-60) wide; shield design represents a complete network of cells; median line present except on central cell; admedian and submedian lines forming clear cells in 3 tiers. On each half of shield an anterior tier with 6 cells; second tier with 2 cells and third tier with 3 cells;
dorsal tubercles present and near rear shield margin but without setae. Forelegs 37.5 (31-39) long from trochanter base; patella fused with femur, 15 (10-15) long and without seta; tibia 6 (6-8) long, tarsus 8 (6-9) long, two upper setae each 31 (27-35) long and a lower tarsal seta 9 (6-12) long; claw 6 (4-6) long and knobbed; featherclaw divided and 5-rayed. Hindlegs 30 (28-33) long from trochanter base; tarsus with a long seta, 25.5 (25-33) long and a lower tarsal seta, 7.5 (6-8) long; other characters as in foreleg. Anterior coxae contiguous, forming a wide median suture; both the coxae ornamented with fine granules and few curved lines on hind coxae; first setiferous coxal tubercles absent; second setiferous coxal tubercles slightly ahead of level of the third coxal tubercles.

Abdomen with 51 (47-55) smooth tergites and 81 (81-91) microtuberculated sternites; microtubercles round and located within ring margin. Tubercular base of lateral seta on about sternite 17 but without setae; first ventral seta 13.5 (12-18) long, on about sternite 35; second ventral seta 9 (6-9) long, on about sternite 57; third ventral seta 25.5 (22-32) long, on about sternite 78; caudal seta 60 (49-63) long; accessory seta absent. Genitalia 19.5 (15-20) long, 22.5 (19-27) wide; coverflap smooth; genital seta 6 (6-8) long.

**Male**: Unknown.

**Holotype**: ♀ (marked), INDIA: WEST BENGAL: Hooghly, Khalsani, 11.VII.1980 from *Leea macrophylla* Roxb. (Vitaceae), on slide (No. 541/152/81), coll. B. GHOSH.

**Paratypes**: 27 ♀♀, on the holotypic slide and 3 slides (Nos. 542-544/152/81), collection data as in
holotype. Additional materials of this species were also subsequently collected on 19.XII.1981 from the same host and locality.

**Distribution**: India : West Bengal.

**Relation to the host plant**: This species is a leaf vagrant and inhabits the ventral surface of leaves. No remarkable damage symptom was noticed during the period of collection, although the population was quite heavy.

**Remarks**: As indicated under *D. cuminis*, this species in having reticulated netlike shield and five rayed featherclaw comes close to *D. artocarpace* Mohanasundaram (1981), *D. integrifoliae* Mohanasundaram (1981), *D. trewier* Chakrabarti and Mondal (1983), *D. assamica* Keifer (1959), and *D. maduraensis* Mohanasundaram (1986). However, *leeasis* remains distinct from all the other species of *Diptilomiopus* in having lateral tubercles without seta.

**Pseudodiptacus** nov. gen.

Body spindle shaped, more or less circular in cross section; rostrum large, curved at right angle to the cephalothorax; chelicerae long and abruptly bent down; shield subelliptical; anterior shield lobe lacking; dorsal tubercles set ahead of rear shield margin; dorsal seta small; setae directed forward; first coxal setiferous tubercles missing; first coxae separated at least by a short sternal line; legs with tarsal and fore patellar seta; hind patellar seta absent; tibial seta absent; featherclaw strongly divided. Abdomen with all usual pairs of setae except lateral seta which may be absent, leaving only a tubercle; female genitalia in normal position; coverflap granular or smooth.

**Type species**: *Neorhynacus combretis* Ghosh and Chakrabarti.

**Remarks**: *Pseudodiptacus* gen. nov. belongs to subfamily *Diptilomiopinae* and comes close to *Rhynacus* Keifer (1951) by the absence of first coxal seta, femoral seta and presence of forepatellar seta and to *Diptacus* Keifer (1951) by the absence of femoral seta, presence of setiferous dorsal tubercles and to *Apodiptacus* Keifer (1960) and *Acarhis* Keifer (1975) in having setiferous dorsal tubercles and absence of femoral seta. But *Rhynacus* remains distinct from this new genus by the absence of dorsal setiferous tubercles. *Apodiptacus* and *Diptacus* remain distinct by the presence of lateral setae and first coxal seta and *Acarhis* by first setiferous coxal tubercles and fore patellar seta (in *Acarhis* first setiferous coxal tubercles present and fore patellar seta absent).

**Distribution**: India : West Bengal.

Host : Combretaceae, Laurenceae.

**Pseudodiptacus combretis** (Ghosh and Chakrabarti) n. comb.


Materials examined: ♀♂, INDIA : WEST BEN­GAL : Bankura, Dubrakone, 1.1.1980 from *Com­bretum decundrum* Roxb. (Combretaceae), coll. B. GHOSH (Type material).

While describing this species as *Neorhynacus combretis* Ghosh and Chakrabarti (1982) pointed out that it does not fit well in the genus *Neorhynacus* Mohanasundaram (1981) due to absence of first coxal tubercles and setae. At present a new genus *Pseudodiptacus* is being erected to accomodate this species and another new species.

**Relation to the host plant**: This species was found in association with two other species, *Colopodacus combretus* Ghosh and Chakrabarti and *Indonotalox sudarsani* Ghosh and Chakrabarti. All three species are vagrants on the undersurface of leaves. Due to infestation leaves turn yellowish brown.

**Pseudodiptacus litseae** sp. nov.

(Fig. 4)

**Female**: Body 209 (162-228) long, 83.6 (69-91) wide; spindle shaped and brown in colour. Rostrum large, curved down, 60 (54-62) long, subapical setae 9 (6-9) long. Shield 27 (25-32) long, 60 (53-65) wide; subelliptical; anterior shield lobe lacking; shield design represents a network of cells; median
FIG. 4: *Pseudodiptacus litseae* sp. nov.


line present except on central cell part; admedian present on anterior 0.5 part; admedian and submedian lines form anteriorly on each half of shield a row of 6 cells extending along lower side of lateral shield margin and posteriorly three cells on either side are present; two cells present just below the central cell and radiating from it; another two cells present, lateral to central cell; dorsal tubercles 9 (9-12) ahead of the rear shield margin; setae 3 (2-3) long, directing convergently up and 24 (20-24) apart from each other. Forelegs 42 (39-44) long from trochanter base; femur 10.5 (9-12) long, without seta; patella 4.5 (4-6) long, with a seta 36 (35-42) long; tibia 6 (6-7) long without seta; tarsus 12 (10-12) long, with two long setae, each 39 (31-39) long and a short lower tarsal seta 12.5 (12-16) long; claw 7.3 (6-8) long, knobbled; featherclaw divided and 7-rayed. Hindlegs 37.5 (33-39) long from trochanter base; patella 4.5 (4-5) long, without seta; tibia 5.5 (4-6) long; tarsus 10.5 (9-12) long, with a long seta 21 (21-25) long and a short lower tarsal seta 12 (12-16) long. Coxae separated by a wide gap; first coxal setiferous tubercles absent; second coxal tubercles set well ahead of the line across the third coxal tubercles; both coxae ornamented with curved discontinuous lines.

Abdomen with 63 (60-66) tergites and 72 (70-76) sternites; both tergites and sternites are microtuberculated. Lateral seta lacking, first ventral seta 9 (6-9) long, on about sternite 26; second ventral seta 7.5 (7-10) long, on about sternite 40; third ventral seta 30 (24-33) long, on about sternite 60; caudal seta 60 (54-72) long; accessory setae not apparent. Genitalia 25.5 (22-28) wide, 19.5 (18-23) long; upper half of coverflap with granules; genital setae 7.5 (6-8) long.
Male: Unknown.

Holotype: ♀ (marked), INDIA: WEST BENGAL: Bankura, Dubrakone, 15.XII.1981 from Litsea sp. (Lauraceae) on slide (No. 504/172/80), coll. B. GHOSH.

Paratypes: 39 ♀♀, on the holotypic slide and on 3 slides (Nos. 505-507/172/80), collection data as in holotype; 22 ♀♀, WEST BENGAL: Bankura, Forest of Joypur, 22.VII.1980 from same host plant, on 3 slides (508-510/172/80), coll. B. GHOSH.

Distribution: India, West Bengal.

Relation to the host plant: This species is a leaf vagrant found on the ventral surface of leaves along with Tegonotus litseasis Ghosh and Chakrabarti. Due to heavy infestation hairy outgrowths develop on the ventral surface of the leaves.

Remarks: Pseudodiaptacus litseae sp. nov. differs from the only other species under the same genus viz., P. combretis Ghosh and Chakrabarti (1982) by its ornamented coxae, and median line present on anterior 0.5 part and posterior 0.25 of shield.

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