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FUR-MITES OF THE GENUS *ATOPOMELUS* TROUSSART, 1918
(ACARI: ATOPOMELIDAE) LIFE-CYCLE
PHYLOGENY AND HOST PARASITE-ASSOCIATIONS

BY A.V. BOCHKOV* 1,2, P.B. KLIMOV1, & B.M. OCONNOR1

(Accepted January 2005)

INTRODUCTION

Fur-mites of the family Atopomelidae are permanent, mono- or oligoxenous parasites of marsupials, “insectivores”, primates, and rodents. These mites are known from both hemispheres but most of the diversity is found in the Neotropical, Afrotropical, Oriental, and Australian regions. To date, this family includes 47 genera and more than 370 species (OCONNOR, 1982; BOCHKOV & FAIN, 2003). Most of the atopomelid genera or subgenera are associated with particular host groups and, therefore, are good potential models for analysis of co-phylogenetic evolution between parasites and hosts (FAIN, 1994).

SUMMARY: The genus *Atopomelus* TROUSSART, comprising fur mites of eulipotyphlan mammals, is revised, and all postembryonic stages are described for the first time. An emended diagnosis of the genus, descriptions of three previously recognized species and two new species, *A. hylomys* sp.nov. and *A. priapus* sp.nov., and keys to males and females are provided. Phylogenetic relationships among the species are analyzed using cladistic methods. Species of the atopomelid genera *Lemuroptes* LAWRENCE, *Micropotamogalichus* FAIN, and *Didelphocius* FAIN were selected as close outgroups and *Listrophorus leuckarti* (Listrophoridae) was chosen as a distant outgroup. A single, most parsimonious cladogram was obtained ("A. talpae (A. crocidurae (A. locusta (A. hylomys + A. priapus)))"). *Atopomelus* species primarily parasitize Oriental insectivores, gymnures of the genus *Hylomys* (Erinaceidae) (3 mite species) and shrews of the genus *Crocidura* (Soricidae) (*A. crocidurae*). A single species, *A. talpae* is known from *Talpa romana* (Talpidae) in Italy. Plesiomorphic characters of this genus suggest that it’s the ancestor of the clade was associated with the basal Eulipotyphla and hedgehogs as the earlier derivative of this host clade. The occurrence of *A. talpae* on *T. romana* is probably the result of an ancient host switch from gymnures inhabiting Europe in the Oligocene. The association between atopomelids and Oriental shrews is probably also secondary. Host switching of atopomelids onto Oriental *Crocidura*, probably happened with pioneering shrew species dispersing into this region from the Palaeartic.

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To date, the only atopomelid taxon to be analyzed phylogenetically is the subgenus *Marquesania* of the genus *Listrophoroides* (Bochkov & Fain, 2003). There are several reasons why phylogenetic and co-phylogenetic studies of this family have been limited. First, the external morphology, especially the leg setation, has not been adequately described for many taxa. Second, the morphology of the immature stages has never been described in detail, and the developmental homology of leg and idiosomal setae has never been established. Third, many genera and species of potential hosts have not been examined for these parasites. And finally, many species were described from one or only a few specimens, rendering some published host associations questionable (Bochkov & Fain, 2003).

The present paper is a systematic revision of the genus *Atopomelus* Trouessart, 1918, including an emended diagnosis of this genus, descriptions of previously recognized and two new species and keys to males and females. Morphology of all postembryonic stages and homology of leg and idiosomal setae with those of other Astigmata are studied in detail for the first time in this family. Finally, the phylogenetic relationships among species of this genus and their host associations are analyzed.

The genus *Atopomelus* was established by Trouessart (1918) for a single species *Atopomelus locusta* Trouessart, 1918, described from *Hylomys (=Neotetracus) sinensis* (Trouessart, 1909) (Erinaceidae) in China. There has been some confusion regarding the publication date of this work, with prior authors (e.g. Radford, 1950; Fain & Lukoschus, 1977; Fain et al., 1973) giving the date as 1917. Although the paper was presented at the meeting of the Société Zoologique de France on 11 December 1917, the issue of the society’s “Bulletin” containing the published paper is dated 15 March 1918. *Atopomelus locusta* has never been recollected nor fully re-described since the original description. Two additional species have been described more recently. *Atopomelus crocidurae* Fain & Lukoschus, 1977 was described from two females collected from *Crocidura attenuata aequicaudata* Robinson & Kloss, 1918 (=*Crocidura aequicauda* [sic]) (Soricidae) from Sumatra (Fain & Lukoschus, 1977) and *Atopomelus talpae* Fain, Lukoschus & Cauwenberge, 1973, was described from both sexes collected from *Talpa romana* Thomas, 1902 (Talpidae) in Italy (Fain et al., 1973).

**Materials and Methods**

**Materials.** Most specimens examined in this study were collected by the authors from dried or fluid preserved host specimens in various institutions. Particularly, large series of host specimens collected as part of recent surveys of small mammals in the Philippines by Dr. Lawrence Heneay of the Field Museum of Natural History and on the island of Borneo by Dr. Antonia Gorog of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology were available. These materials were supplemented by study of type specimens when available. Collection locality information is taken from the original host data. Some place names, particularly early 20th century Chinese localities, could not be located in modern references due to original inaccuracies or changes in transliteration. These are reproduced as on the original host specimen labels. In the descriptions below, idiosomal chaetotaxy follows Griffiths et al. (1990). The leg chaetotaxy and solenidiotaxy follow Grandjean (1939). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm) and were taken as follows: body length = the total length from the anterior extremity of the gnathosoma to the posterior border of the body; body width = maximum width taken at whatever level it occurs; length of dorsal shields = maximum length, measured in the median line of the shields; length of the posterior legs = length from the most basal point of the trochanter to the apex of the tarsus, excluding pretarsal ambulacrum; length of the tibiotarsus = length from most basal point of this segment to the apex of the tarsus, excluding pretarsal ambulacrum.

Names of hosts follow Wilson & Reeder (1992) except that we follow more recent works that support the polyphyly of the traditional mammalian order Insectivora (or Lipotyphla) and recognize two orders, Eulipotyphla (including Erinaceidae, Solenodontidae, Soricidae, and Talpidae) and Afrosoericida (including Chrysocloridae and Tenrecidae) (Stanhope et al., 1998). Specimen depositories and reference numbers are cited using the following abbreviations:
Cladistics. Three species representing genera of Atopomelidae that are morphologically similar to Atopomelus were used as close outgroups: Didelphoeucius surinamensis FAIR, 1976, from Caluromys phialander (L., 1758) (Didelphimorphia: Didelphidae), Lemuroptes potto FAIR, 1972, stat. nov. (L. primarius potto) from Perodicticus potto (MÜLLER, 1766) (Primates: Loridae), and Micropotamogalichus congoensis FAIR, 1970 from Micropotamogale ruwenzorii (DE WITTE & FRECHKOP, 1955) (Afrosoricida: Tenrecidae). The original descriptions of Lemuroptes spp., and Micropotamogalichus (monotypic) contain some inaccuracies. Therefore we also give here emended diagnoses based on re-examination of the type materials (see Appendix). The genus Didelphoeucius is in need of a separate taxonomic review, therefore, we simply selected a species showing many ancestral character states for this genus. Listrophorus leuckarti PAGENSTECHER, 1861 (Listrophoridae), whose morphology has been recently re-described in detail (WURST, 1993), was chosen as a more distant outgroup, because the family Listrophoridae has been considered as closely related to the Atopomelidae (OCONNOR, 1982).

Preparing and editing of the data matrix were done using NEXUS Data Editor 0.5.0 (PAGE, 2001). In total, 9 taxa and 46 characters were included in the analysis (Tables 1 and 2). Reconstruction of phylogenetic relationships was performed with PAUP 4.0* b10 for Macintosh (SWOFFORD, 2001). Maximum parsimony analysis was used for the estimation of phylogeny. All characters were unordered. The exact search option (Branch and Bound) was used due to the relatively small number of taxa. Bremer branch support values were calculated in PAUP with a command file generated in TreeRot.v2 (SORENSON, 1999). For analysis of character distribution, we used DELTRAN (slow) optimization. Drawing and editing of trees were done with WINCLADA (NIXON, 1999).

TAXONOMY
Family Atopomelidae GÜNTHER, 1942
Genus Atopomelus TROUSSART, 1918
Atopomelus TROUSSART, 1918: 155.

Type species: Atopomelus locusta TROUSSART, 1918, by monotypy

Diagnosis. Adults: Postscapular shield undivided, hair clasping organs of coxae I not developed, anterior apodemes of coxae I and II fused, clasping organs of coxae II represented by pair of well developed valves, paraprostal setae ps1 absent, pretarsal ambulacra of legs II–III strongly flattened dorsoventrally. Male: hysteronotal shield well developed, anal suckers present, legs IV hypertrophied, trochanters IV with ventral spur, femur and genu IV fused, tibiotarsus saber-like, without pretarsal ambulacrum or sucker-like setae, subequal in length to femur genu. Female: idiosoma strongly elongated, hysteronotal shield absent, hysterosoma completely covered by triangular cuticular microtrichae.
1. Gnathosoma length and width subequal (0), distinctly elongated (1); CI 0.5
2. Attachment organs of coxae I present (0), absent (1); CI 1
3. Attachment organs of coxae II represented by striated membranes (0), by valves with complicated system of sclerites (1); CI 1
4. Postscapular shield in female divided medially (0), not divided (1); CI 1
5*. Undivided postscapular shield in female with posterior median incision (0), without (1); CI 1
6. Postscapular shield in male divided medially (0), entire, strongly reduced (1), entire, covering most part of propodonotum (2); CI 1
7. Undivided postscapular shield in male ornamented (0), unornamented (1); CI 1
8. Hyisteronotal shield in male divided medially (0), entire (1); CI 1
9. Undivided hyisteronotal shield in male with posterior median incision (0), without (1); CI 1
10. Genital valves fused anteriorly (0), widely separated (1); CI 1
11. Genital papillae in female separated (0), contiguous (1); CI 1
12*. Opisthosomal copulatory papilla in female absent (0), present (1); CI 1
13. Distal part of spermatheca narrow (0), broadened or inflated (1); CI 1
14. Scales of median part of female hyisteronotum longer than wide (0), wide than longer (1); CI 0.5
15. Opisthonotum in male behind hyisteronotal shield smooth (0), covered by scales or protuberances (1); CI 0.5
16. Aedeagus short (0), hypertrophied (1); CI 0.5
17. Opisthosomal lobes in male present (0), absent (1); CI 0.5
18*. Setae vi present (0), absent (1); CI 1
19. Setae f2 and h3 in female short (0), macrosetae (1); CI 1
20. Setae ps2-ps3 in female present (0), absent (1); CI 0.33
21. Setae e2 shorter than e1 (0), subequal or longer (1); CI 0.33
22. Setae ps2 in male present (0), absent (1); CI 1
23. Setae ps3 in male present (0), absent (1); CI 1
24. Adanal suckers in male present (0), absent (1); CI 1
25. Coxae IV in female widely separated (0), fused (1); CI 1
26. Dorsal spur of trochanter IV in male absent (0), present (1); CI 0.5
27. Ventral spur of trochanter IV in male absent (0), present (1); CI 1
28. Ventral spur of trochanter IV in homeomorph male with single apex (0), bifurcate (1); CI 1
29. Setae pR II absent (0), present (1); CI 1
30. Setae sR III present (0), absent (1); CI 1
31. Genu and femur I-II smooth ventrally (0), striated (1); CI 1
32. Femur and genu IV in male separated and not hypertrophied (0), fused and hypertrophied (1); CI 0.5
33. Setation of legs I-IV: I trochanter 0, femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, σ1), tibia 2 (gT, φ), tarsus 10-11 (wu,

Table 1. — List of characters (0 – plesiomorphy, 1 – apomorphy, CI – consistent index, * – autapomorphy)

**Description.** Adults. Gnathosoma, except for *A. talpae*, oblong, approximately 1.4 times longer than wide, bearing pair of well developed ventro-lateral valves. Idiosomal dorsum bearing propodosomal and undivided postscapular shields. Hair clasping organs of coxae I not developed, clasping organs of coxae II represented by pair of well developed valves. Setation of idiosoma: scx, si, se, c2, c3, cp, dl, d2, e1, e2, f2, h1, h2, h3, ps3, 1a, 3a, 3b, g, 4a; setae ps2 present in male of *A. talpae*. Cupules not observed.

Legs inserted ventrally, coxal fields III and IV closely associated. Paired anterior apodemes of all coxae fused mesally. Ventral surfaces of femora and genua I-II covered by fine longitudinal striation. Femora I-II slightly expanded paraxially in anterior half. Tarsus II strongly modified, rotated and curved paraxially. All pretarsal ambulacra, except for ambulacra of legs I, strongly flattened dorso-ventrally. Setation of legs I-IV: I trochanter 0, femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, σ1), tibia 2 (gT, φ), tarsus 10-11 (wu,
ra, la, ba, [s] d, e, f, ω1 and ω3); II trochanter 1 (pR), femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, o), tibia 2 (gT, q), tarsus 8-9 (wa, ra, la, ba, [s], d, e, f, ω); III trochanter 1 (sR), femur 0, genu 1 (α), tibiotarsus 8 (tibia — kT, q, tarsus — wa, ra, d, e, f); IV trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 0, tibiotarsus 8 (tibia — kT, q, tarsus — wa, ra, d, e, f).

Setae wa and ra II strongly inflated in basal half. Setae wa and ra on legs III and IV, except for leg IV in male, thorin-like. Setae s I-II present only in A. talpae.

Male. Idiosoma elongate, 2.5 times longer than wide. Postscapular and hysteronotal shields well developed, covering most part of dorsal surface, only idiosomal surface behind level of setae eI unsclerotized. Setae hI thin and short. Postgenital shield absent. One pair of small adanal suckers present. Opisthosoma without membranous terminal expansion. Legs IV hypertrophied, at least 1.5 times longer than legs III. Trochanter IV with ventral spur, femur and genu IV fused and strongly sclerotized. Tibiotarsus saber-like, without ambulacrum, subequal to femurogenu, all its setae filiform, setae d macrosetae.

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Table 2. — Data matrix. (0 plesiomorphy, 1 apomorphy, – inapplicable)

Female. Idiosoma strongly elongate, 3-4 times longer than wide. Hysteronotal shield absent. Unsclerotized propodonotal surface covered by transverse striations and broadly rounded scales, ventral surface of propodosoma covered by longitudinal striations and rounded protuberances. Hysterosoma completely covered by large triangular microtrichae. Epigynum fused with anterior apodemes of coxae III. Genital valves situated between coxae III. Opisthonal setae f2 and h3 macrosetae. Two pairs of reduced genital papillae present.

Description of developmental stages based on A. crocidurae. Larva (Fig. 11A-E). Gnathosoma as in adults. Idiosoma as in female but postscapular shield absent. Anterior apodemes I and II fused medially, and apodemes IV fused in anterior part. Idiosomal setation: scy, si, se, c2, c3, ep, d1, d2, e1, e2, h1, h2, 1a, 3b. Setae h2 macrosetae, situated dorsally. Leg setation: I trochanter 0, femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, o), tibia 2 (gT, q), tarsus 9 (wa, ra, ba, la, d, e, f, ω1); II trochanter 0, femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, o), tibia 2 (gT, q), tarsus 8 (wa, ra, la, ba, d, e, f, ω1); III trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 1 (α), tibiotarsus 8 (tibia — kT, q, tarsus — wa, ra, d, e, f), IV trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 0, tibiotarsus 8 (tibia — kT, q, tarsus — wa, ra, d, e, f). Solenidion σ III very short.

Protonymph (Fig. 11 F-L). Postscapular shield absent. Setae f2, h3, p3, and g added. Only setae f2 macrosetae. One pair of indistinct genital papillae present between coxae IV. Epimera IV fused mesally. Leg setation with setae d, ra, and wa of tarsus IV added, and solenidion σ of genu III subequal in length to this segment.

Teleonymph (Fig. 12). Postscapular shield absent. Setae 3a and 4a added on idiosoma, setae pR added on trochanter II, setae kT and solenidion q added on tibia IV, and setae e, f added on tarsus IV. Setae f2 and h3 macrosetae. Two pairs of indistinct genital papillae between coxae IV. Setae 3a microsetae, situated between coxae IV in anterior part; setae f2 and h3 macrosetae.

Morphological notes. 1. The hair clasping organs of coxae II consist of a pair of valves derived from the anterior and posterior coxal apodemes and the sur-
Fig. 1 (A-D): *Atopomelas locusta*, male. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view. C. — Tibiotarsus III, lateral. D. — Tibiotarsus IV, lateral. Scale bars 100 μm (A, B) and 50 μm (C, D).
face of the coxal fields (Fig. 10 B). The inner surface
of the valves is distinctly striated for stronger attach-
ment to the host hair.

2. Tarsus I and II are both strongly modified. All
their setae, however, retain their ancestral positions.
Tarsus I is less modified than tarsus II. This segment
is shortened, bent terminally, and situated on the
inner side of the dorsally expanded tibia (Figs. 2 F, 14
A, B). Tarsus II is further modified. It is flattened
basally, and setae wa, ra, la and s (if present) are
situated on the same side. The apical part of tarsus II
is curved paraxially forming a functional attachment
organ (Figs. 2 G, 14 C).

Species group “locusta”. The three species associa-
ted with Erinaceidae form a distinct lineage charac-
terized by the following:

Male: Postscapular shield covered by transverse
lines. Opisthontal surface behind hysteronotal
shield covered by tubercles. Opisthogaster completely
covered by scales or tubercles. Dorsal spur present on
trochanter IV, ventral spur not bifurcate, except for
heteromorphic male of A. hylomys sp. nov. Female:
Hysteronotum covered by scales that wider than
long. Genital papillae contiguous. Distal part of sper-
matheca inflated.

**Atopomelus locusta** Trouessart, 1918

*Atopomelus locusta* Trouessart, 1918: 157;
Fain et al., 1973: 29; Fain & Lukoschus, 1977: 29
(Figs. 1-3)

**Diagnosis.** Male: Hysteronotal shield tuberculate.
Ventral spur of trochanter IV with single apex; dorsal
spur well developed, slightly longer than ventral spur.
Female: Vulvar plates widely separated each from
other. Median scales of hysterosoma in form of wide
triangles. Genital papillae contiguous. Distal part of spermatheca inflated, globose. Setae d III-IV sube-
qual in length to respective tibiotarsi, excluding ambulacra.

**Description** (specimens from Hylomys sinensis).
Male (n=3, Fig. 1). Body elongate, length/width ratio
2.5 : 1. Postscapular shield with transverse lines. Hys-
teronotal shield trapeziform, covered by indistinct
tubercles, bearing 3 pairs of setae, d1, d2, and e1.
Setae d1 short, d2 subequal or 2-4 times longer than
d1. Pair of round unsclerotized patches near bases of
setae d2 present or absent. Setae e1 and e2 range from
subequal in some specimens, to e2 significantly short-
er, 1:10. Length ratio between postscapular and hys-
teronotal shields subequal, 1.2:1. Unsclerotized sur-
face of opisthosoma tuberculate. Setae f2 2.5-6 times
shorter than h3. Aedeagus short, about 3 times short-
er than femur III. Leg IV 1.8 times longer than leg
III. Setae d I-II subequal in length to respective sole-
nidia o1; seta d III subequal in length to tibiotarsus,
excluding ambulacrum. Trochanter IV with ventral
dorsal spurs, ventral spur with single apex, dorsal
spur well developed, 1.3 times longer than ventral
spur, situated in basal part of this segment. Femuro-
genu IV with one ventral spur. Tarsus IV with single
pointed apex (Fig. 1D).

**Measurements.** Body 450-540 long, 165-230 wide;
gnathosoma 70-75 long, 45-55 wide; prescapular
shield 100-120 long; postscapular shield 175-200
long; hysteronotal shield 130-165 long; leg III 230-
300 long; leg IV 485-550 long; femurogenu IV 175-
185 long; tibiotarsus III 75-80 long; tibiotarsus IV
145-155 long; ventral spur of trochanter IV 27-30
long, dorsal spur 40-45 long; anterior ventral spur of
femurogenu IV 9-10 long. Length of idiosomal setae:
si 35-55, se 55-80, c2 55-60, c3 30-35, cp 110-145, d1
40-75, d2 55-320, e1 190-215, e2 20-187, f2 30-85, h1
8-10, h2 50-60, h3 180-210, 4a and ps — all about 7, 3a
19-22, 3b 25-30, and g 12-15. Setae d1 — II 27-30, III
85-90, IV 240-310. Length of solenidia: o1 I-II about
30, o3 I 30-33; g I-IV 60-70; o I-II about 15, III 60-70.

Female (n=10, Figs. 2, 3). Body about 4 times
longer than wide. Postscapular shield well developed,
covered by scale-like pattern, with posterior median
incision. Length ratio of this incision and postscapular
shield 1 : 4-6, width ratio 1 : 5. Setae dI, d2, e1, e2,
h1, h2, and ps3 short, subequal in length. Hysterono-
tum covered medially by triangular scales that are
wider than their length. Genital papillae contiguous.
Genital valves widely separated from each other,
triangular, each bearing setae 3a and g. Sclerotized
areas of coxae IV fused in posterior part, and setae 4a
situated on common sclerotized plate (Fig. 2C). Dis-
tal part of spermatheca inflated, globose (Fig. 2D).
Setae d I-II subequal in length to respective solenidia
o1; setae d III-IV subequal in length to respective
tibiotarsi, excluding ambulacra.
Fig. 3 (A-B). *Atopomelus locusta*, female. A. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view.
Measurements. Body 580-650 long, 165-175 wide; gnathosoma 75-85 long, 55-60 wide; prescapular shield 90-120 long; postscapular shield 85-90 long, 120-150 wide, median incision of this shield 25-30 long, 30-35 wide; leg III and IV 120-145 long; tibiotarsus III-IV 45-60 long. Length of idiosomal setae: si and se 35-45, c2 25-30, c3 15-17, ep 65-75, d1, d2, e1, e2, h1, h2, ps3 — all 22-33, f2 and h3 170-180, 3a 14-17, 3b 19-20, g and 4a 15-18. Setae d I-II 18-25, III-IV 45-55. Length of solenidia: ωI 1-II 22-25, ω3 I 27-30; ϕ I-III 40-45, IV 17-20; α I-II 15-22, III 17-22.


Specimen deposition. Lectotype and female paralectotypes (designated by Fain & Lukoschus, 1977, not examined) are deposited in MNHP. Voucher specimens from this study deposited in FMNH, UMMZ, USNM, and ZISP.

Remarks. Male characters are strongly variable in size and relative proportions. For example, the body length in 10 males from H. suillus is 425-525; length ratio of setae f2 and h3 is 1:1.2-8. In one specimen (BMOC 76-0823-31, 1), tarsi IV are bifurcate.

Atopomelus hylomys sp.nov.
(Figs. 4, 5)


Description. Male (holotype, Fig. 4). Body elongate, length/width ratio 2.6:1. Postscapular shield covered by transverse lines. Hysteronotal shield trapeziform, devoid of ornamentation, bearing 3 pairs of setae, d1, d2, and e1. Pair of round non sclerotized patches near to bases of setae d2 present or absent. Setae d2 subequal to 2 times longer than d1. Setae e1 5 times longer than e2. Length ratio of postscapular and hysteronotal shields subequal, 1.3:1. Unsclerotized integument of opisthosoma tuberculate. Setae h3 2 times longer than f2. Setae h2 2.6 times shorter than h3. Aedeagus short, about 3 times shorter than femur III. Legs IV 1.6 times longer than legs III. Setae d I-II 3 times shorter than respective solenidia ω1; seta d III subequal in length to tibiotaurs, excluding ambulaeum. Trochanter IV with ventral and dorsal spurs, ventral spur with single apex, dorsal spur well developed, 1.3 times shorter than ventral spur, situated in median part of segment. Femurogen IV with 2 ventral spurs. Tarsus IV with single or bifurcate apex (Fig. 4D), seta rA IV situated on small angular projection.

Measurements. Body 365, 350-380 long in 6 paratypes and 140, 130-140 wide; gnathosoma 65, 65-67 long, 45, 40-45 wide; prescapular shield 75, 70-75 long; postscapular shield 115, 115-140 long; hysteronotal shield 90, 90-110 long; leg III 200, 200-210 long;
Description. Male (holotype, Fig. 6). Body elongate, length/width ratio 3:1. Postscapular shield with 8 transverse lines. Hysteronotal shield trapeziform, covered by indistinct tubercles, bearing 3 pairs of setae, d1, d2, and e1. Setae d1 and d2 thin and short, subequal in length, much shorter than e1. Length ratio between postscapular and hysteronotal shields subequal, 1.2:1. Un sclerotized cuticle of opisthosoma tuberculate. Setae e2 microsetae, setae f2 6-7 times longer than h2. Setae h2 and h3 subequal. Aedeagus long, about 2.5 times longer than femur III. Legs IV 1.5 times longer than legs III. Seta d I-II 3-4 times shorter than respective tibiotarsi. Seta d III 3 times shorter than tibiotarsus, excluding ambulacrum. Trochanters and femurs III-IV about 2 times shorter than respective tibiotarsi.


Type deposition. Holotype deposited in EMEC, paratypes in FMNH, UMMZ and ZISP.

Remarks. Differential characters of this species are given in the key below.

Etymology. The species name is derived from the generic name of the host and is a noun in apposition.

Atopomelus priapus sp.nov. (Figs. 6, 7)

Diagnosis. Male: Hysteronotal shield tuberculate. Ventral spur of trochanter IV with single apex; dorsal spur weakly developed, 2.5 times shorter than ventral spur. Aedeagus about 3 times longer than femur III. Female: Median scales of hysterosoma broadly triangular. Genital papillae contiguous. Distal part of spermatheca broadened. Setae of I-II distinctly shorter than respective solenidia and h2. Setae d III-IV about 2 times shorter than respective tibiotarsi.
Fig. 6 (A-E). *Atopomelas priapus* sp. nov., male A. — Gnathosoma, lateral. B. — Dorsal view. C. — Ventral view. D. — Tibiotarsus III, lateral. E. — Tibiotarsus IV, lateral. Scale bars 100 μm (C, B) and 50 μm (A, D, E).
Fig. 7 (A–F). Atopomelus priapus sp. nov., female. A. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view. C. — Vulvar plates. D. — Tibiotarsus III, lateral. E. — Tibiotarsus IV, lateral. F. — Distal part of spermatheca. Scale bars 100 µm (A, B) and 50 µm (C–F).
chanter IV with ventral and dorsal spurs, ventral spur with single apex, dorsal spur weakly developed, 2.5 times shorter than this segment. Femurogenu IV with two ventral spurs. Tarsus IV with single pointed apex (Fig. 6E).

**Measurements.** Body 350, 340-360 long, 117, 115-120 wide; gnathosoma 55, 55-60 long, 33, 33-35 wide; prescapular shield 75, 70-77 long; postscapular shield 110, 100-110 long; hysteronotal shield 90, 90-95 long; leg III 130, 120-135 long; leg IV 200, 175-210 long; prescapular shield 75, 70-77 long; postscapular shield 120 wide; gnathosoma 55, 55-60 long, 33, 33-35 wide; prescapular shield 75, 70-77 long; postscapular shield 110, 100-110 long; hysteronotal shield 90, 90-95 long; leg III 130, 120-135 long; leg IV 200, 175-210 long; preanterior ventral spur of femurogenu IV 47, 45-50; tibiotarsus IV 65, 60-65 long; ventral spur of trochanter IV about 15, 15-20 long, dorsal spur 4, 4-6 long; anterior ventral spur of femurogenu IV 3, 3-5 long; posterior ventral spur of femurogenu IV about 2, 2-3 long. Length of idiosomal setae: $s_1$ 20, 18-20, $s_3$ 22, 22-24, $c_2$ and $c_3$ about 25, $c_1$ 33, 30-35, $d_1$ and $d_2$ about 22, $e_1$ 125, 120-130, $e_2$ 5, 5-6, $f_2$ 50, 45-55, $h_1$, $h_2$, $h_3$, $4a$, and $ps$ — all about 5, 3a, 3b, and $g$ about 15. Setae $d_1$ — II about 5, III about 17, IV about 175. Length of solenidia: $o_1$ I about 13, II about 20, $o_3$ I about 22; $q$ I-II about 35, III 55, 55-58, IV 47, 45-50; $\sigma$ I-II about 9, III about 18.

Female (10 paratypes, Fig. 7). Body 3.3-3.5 times longer than wide. Postscapular shield well developed, covered by sinuous lines, with very short median incision, length ratio of this incision and shield 1:4, width ratio 1:3-3.5. Setae $d_1$, $d_2$, $e_1$, $e_2$, $h_1$, $h_2$, and $ps_3$ short, subequal in length. Setae $d_2$ and $d_3$ short, subequal in length. Setae $d_1$, $d_2$, $e_1$, $e_2$, $h_1$, $h_2$, and $ps_3$ short, subequal in length. Setae $d_1$ and $d_2$ about 22, $e_1$ 125, 120-130, $e_2$ 5, 5-6, $f_2$ 50, 45-55, $h_1$, $h_2$, $h_3$, $4a$, and $ps$ — all about 5, 3a, 3b, and $g$ about 15. Setae $d_1$ — II about 5, III about 17, IV about 175. Length of solenidia: $o_1$ I about 13, II about 20, $o_3$ I about 22; $q$ I-II about 35, III 55, 55-58, IV 47, 45-50; $\sigma$ I-II about 9, III about 18.

**Measurements.** Body 470-520 long, 140-150 wide; gnathosoma 55-60 long, 48-50 wide; prescapular shield 65-75 long; postscapular shield 75-80 long, 100-110 wide, median incision of shield 20-25 long, 25-30 wide; leg III and IV 95-100 long; tibiotarsus III-IV 35-38 long. Length of idiosomal setae: $s_i$ and $s_e$ 15-20, $c_2$ 10-12, $c_3$ 8-10, $c_1$ 9-10, $d_1$, $d_2$, $e_1$, $e_2$, $h_1$, $h_2$, $ps_3$ — all 7-10, $f_2$ and $h_3$ 130-140, $s_3$ 10-12, $s_4$ 12-14, $g$ and $4a$ 5-8. Setae $d_1$-II about 5, III-IV 12-15. Length of solenidia: $o_1$ I-II 14-16, $o_3$ I 10-12; $q$ I-III 20-25, IV 6-8; $\sigma$ I-II 5-8, III 9-10.

**Etymology.** This species is named after Priapus, the ancient Greek god of fertility, in reference to the large aedeagus. This species name is a noun in apposition.


**Type deposition.** Holotype deposited in USNM, paratypes in FMNH, UMMZ, and ZISP.

**Remarks.** Differential characters of this species are given in the key below.

The following two species possess more plesiomorphic characters and are not grouped.

*Atopomelus crocidurae* Fain & Lukoschus, 1977

**Diagnosis.** Male: Dorsal shields without ornamentation. Setae $d_1$ and $d_2$ subequal in length. Setae $e_2$ microsetae. Femurogenu IV with two ventral spurs.
Fig. 8 (A-F). *Atopomelus crocidurae*, male. A. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view. C. — Leg I, ventral. D. — Leg II, ventral. E. — Tibiotarsus III, lateral. F. — Tibiotarsus IV, lateral. Scale bars 100 µm (A, B) and 50 µm (C-F).
Fig. 9 (A-E). *Atopomelas crocidurae*, female. A. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view. C. — Dorsal scales of idiosoma. D. — Tibiotarsus III, lateral. E. — Tibiotarsus IV, lateral. Scale bars 100 µm (A, B) and 50 µm (C-E).
Ventral spur of trochanter IV bifurcate; dorsal spur absent. Female: Postscapular shield with large posterior median incision, length ratio of this incision and this shield 2.3; width ratio1:3. Median scales of hysterosoma in form of narrow triangles. Genital papillae separate.

Description (based on specimens from Crocidura mindorus, the Philippines). Male (n=10, Figs. 8, 10A, B). Body elongate, length/width ratio 2.5 : 1. Dorsal shields devoid of ornamentation. Hysteronotal shield trapeziform, bearing 3 pairs of setae, d1, d2, e1, and pair of round unscerotized patches situated near to bases of setae d2. Diameter of these patches subequal to bases of setae d2. Setae d1 and d2 slightly thickened, subequal in length, or d1 slightly longer. Setae e1 3-4 times longer than d1. Length ratio between postscapular and hysteronotal shields subequal, 1:2:1. Unscerotized integument of opisthosoma devoid of ornamentation, and only few scales present laterally. Setae e2 microsetae, setae f2 about 3 times longer than h2. Setae h3 about 3 times longer than f2. Aedeagus short. Legs IV 2 times longer than legs III. Setae d I-II much shorter than respective solenidia o1; seta d III subequal in length to tibiotarsus, excluding ambulacrum. Trochanter IV without dorsal spur, ventral spur well developed, subequal in length to this segment, with two apices unequal in length. Femurogenu IV with two ventral spurs. Tarsus IV with two unequal apices (Fig. 8F).

Measurements. Body 330-360 long, 130-140 wide; gnathosoma 55-60 long, 40-45 wide; prescapular shield 68-75 long; postscapular shield 45-50 long, 87-90 width; leg III 95-100 long; leg IV 100-115 long; tibiotarsus III-IV 38-40 long. Length of idiosomal setae: si 10-12, se 14-16, c2 18-20, c3 14-15, cp 38-42, d1, d2, e1, e2, h1, h2, ps3 — all 10-12, f2 170-175, h3 125-130, 3a 12-14, 3b 20-22, g and 4a 18-20. Setae d I-II 4-5, III-IV 45-50. Length of solenidia: o1 I-II 15-20, o3 I 19-20; g I-III 38-43, IV 10-12; a I-II 12-13, III 10-11.

Material examined. One female ex Crocidura aequicaudata (NHMW), INDONESIA: Sumatra Is., Padan, October 1896, coll. A.J. SCHILD (collected from the same host specimen as the holotype); 2 females and one telonymph (BMOC 99-0301-004) ex Crocidura monticola Peters, 1870 (UMMZ), INDONESIA: Kalimantan Barat, Regency of Ketapang, Gunung Palung National Park, Cabang Panti Research Station, 20-35 m, 3 August 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 006); 1 male, 1 female and 1 telonymph (BMOC 99-0301-012) ex C. monticola (UMMZ), same data, 17 September 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 064); 1 male, 1 female and 1 telonymph (BMOC 99-0301-012) ex C. monticola (UMMZ), same data, 13 August 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 026); 1 male (BMOC 99-0301-006) ex C. monticola (UMMZ), same data, 8 August 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 012); 1 telonymph (BMOC 99-0301-079) ex C. monticola (UMMZ), same data, 1000-1100 m, 3 November 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 148A); 1 male, 2 females, and 2 telonymphs (BMOC 99-0301-198), from C. monticola (UMMZ 174666), INDONESIA: Kalimantan Barat, Regency of Sintang, Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya Nat. Park, Juoi Entry, Bukit
Fig. 10 (A–C). *Atopomelus crocidurae*. A. — Aedeagus. B. — Male clasping organ of coxae II. C. — Vulva. aa — anterior apodeme of coxa II, eaa — enlarged part of anterior apodeme of coxa II, ga — genital acetabula, la — lateral membrane of clasping organ of coxa II, pa — posterior apodeme of coxa II.
Fig. 12 (A-F). *Atopomelus crocidurae*, teleonymph. A. — Ventral view. B. — Genital acetabulae. C. — Leg I, ventral. D. — Leg II, ventral. E. — Leg III, lateral. F. — Leg IV, lateral. Scale bars 100 µm (A) and 50 µm (B-G).
Lubang Tedung, 300-350 m, 22 December 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 472); 4 males, 1 female, 4 teolympnyms, and 1 protonymphs (BMOC 99-0301-210) ex Crocidura fuliginosa foetida Peters, 1870 (UMMZ 175108), INDONESIA: Kalimantan Barat, Regency of Ketapang, Gunung Palung National Park, Kampung Sedahan, 15 August 1999, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 496); 1 female (BMOC 99-0301-041) ex C. fuliginosa foetida (UMMZ 175105), same data, 525 m, 1 October 1998, coll. A.J. Gorog (AJG 080); 1 male, 2 females, and 2 teolympnyms from Crocidura malayana Robinson & Kloos, 1911, MALAYSIA: Selangor, Ulu Langat Kajang, 14 June 1954, coll. M. Nadchatram; 11 males, 10 females, and 1 teolympnym (BMOC 92-1400-100) ex Crocidura mindorus Miller, 1910 (FMNH 146790), PHILIPPINES: Sibuyan Is., Romblon Prov., 6.75 km S, 4.5 km E Magdiwang, 1325 m, 9 March 1992, coll. S.M. Goodman (SMG 5153); 12 males, 7 females, 6 teolympnyms, 1 protonymph, and 1 larva (BMOC 92-1400-097) ex C. mindorus (FMNH 146789), same data, 7 March 1992, coll. S.M. Goodman (SMG 5131); 11 males, 9 females, and 5 teolympnyms (BMOC 92-1400-092) ex C. mindorus (FMNH 146788), same data, 6 March 1992, coll. S.M. Goodman (SMG 5116); 4 males and 4 females (BMOC 01-0920-008) ex Crocidura grayi Dobson, 1890 (FMNH 168976), Luzon Is., Kalinga Prov., Balbalan Munic., Balbalasang Brgy., Am-licao, 1800 m, 25 March 2001, coll. L.R. Heaney (LRH 6436); 2 males and 1 female (BMOC 01-0920-007) ex C. grayi (FMNH 168975), same data, 20 March 2001, coll. E.A. Rickart (EAR 4583). 2 males, 4 females, 4 teolympnyms, and 1 protonymph (BMOC 01-0920-009) ex C. grayi (FMNH 168977), same data, 25 March 2001, coll. E.A. Rickart (EAR 4615); 1 male (BMOC 01-0920-008) ex C. grayi (FMNH 168976), same data, 25 March 2001, coll. L.R. Heaney (LRH 6436); 2 teolympnyms (BMOC 01-0920-006) ex C. grayi (FMNH 168974), same data, 19 March 2001, coll. L.R. Heaney (LRH 6363); 2 females, 8 teolympnyms, 5 protonymphs, and 2 larvae (HK 87-0620-001) ex Crocidura beatus Miller, 1910 (USNM 458960), Bohol Is., Bohol Prov., 1 km S, 2 km E Bilar, 9° 43’ N, 124° 7’ E, 20 June 1987, coll. L.R. Heaney (LRH 3747); 3 males, 2 females, 9 teolympnyms, 3 protonymphs, and 3 larvae (BMOC 95-1214-002), from C. beatus (FMNH 167854), Camiguin Prov., Mt. Timpoong, 2 km N, 6.5 km W Mahinog, 9° 11’ N, 124°, 43’ E, 1000 m, 22 May 1994, coll. B.R. Tabaranza (BRT 135); 3 males, 5 teolympnyms, 5 protonymphs, and 6 larvae (BMOC 95-1214-003) ex C. beatus (FMNH 167855), same data, coll. B.R. Tabaranza (BRT 148).

Specimen deposition. Holotype deposited in NHMV (not examined), female paratype (examined) in IRSNB; voucher specimens from above hosts in FMNH, MBBJ, UMMZ, UPPC, ZISP.

Atopomelus talpae Fain, Lukoschus & Cauwenberge, 1973
Atopomelus talpae Fain et al., 1973: 59 (Figs. 13-14)

Diagnosis. In both sexes: Tarsus I with setae e I-II present, seta e II inflated. Male: Hysteronotal shield mushroom-like. Setae d2 3 times longer than d1; setae e2 long; setae ps2 present. Tarsus IV with two subequal apices. Femurogenu IV without spurs. Trochanter IV without dorsal spur; ventral spur bifurcate. Female: Postscapular shield triangular with sclerotized median band. Median scales of hysterosoma narrowly triangular. Genital papillae separate. Genital valves unsclerotized. Setae 4a situated on soft cuticle between fields of coxae IV.

Description. Male (paratype, Fig. 13 E-I). Body elongate, length/width ratio 2.6 : 1. Gnathosomal length and width subequal, 1.2 : 1. Dorsal shields devoid of ornamentation. Hysteronotal shield narrowed medially, with anterior lateral lobes, bearing 2 pairs of setae, dl and d2, setae e1 situated off this shield. Setae d3 3 times longer than dl. Setae e1 and e2 long. Length ratio of postscapular and hysteronotal shields subequal, 1.2:1. Un sclerotized integument of opisthosoma devoid of ornamentation, and only few scales present in its lateral parts. Setae f2 about 3 times longer than h2 and subequal to h3. Aedeagus short, 2 times shorter than femur III. Setae g widely separated from each other. Setae ps2 present. Legs IV 2 times longer than legs III. Setae d I-II longer than respective solenidia of I-II; setae d III 1.5 times longer than tibiotalus, excluding ambulacrum. Setae s I-II present. Seta e II inflated. Trochanter IV without dorsal spur, ventral spur 2.5 times shorter than res-

Measurements. Body 550 long, 210 wide; gnathosoma 65 long, 55 wide; prescapular shield 70 long; postscapular shield 175 long; hysteronotal shield 145 long; leg III 175 long; leg IV 320 long; femurogenu IV 160 long; tibiotarsus III 75 long; tibiotarsus IV 110 long; ventral spur of trochanter IV 20 long; aedeagus 25 long. Length of idiosomal setae: si 65, se 55, c2 55, c3 60, cp 77, d1 42, d2 125, e1 165, e2 170, f2 100, h1 15, h2 30, h3 105, 3a 60, 3b 45, g 25, 4a 9, ps3 10. Setae dI 35, II 25, III 37, IV 250. Length of idiosomal setae: si 40-55, se 48-60, c2 and c3 40-45, cp 57-65, d1 35-45, d2 45-55, e1 60-65, e2 55-60, h1, h2, ps3 — all about 10, f2 and h3 about 220, 3a, 3b 20-22, and g — all about 20, 4a 40-42. Setae dI 45-55, II 37-40, III 85-110, IV 110-120. Length of idiosomal setae: o1 I-II 25-28, o3 I 37-38; q I-II 42-45, III 29-30, IV 15-16; o I-II 20-22, III 10-12.

Female (2 paratypes, Fig. 13 A-D, 14). Body 3.5 times longer than wide. Postscapular shield distinctly triangular, with distinct longitudinal apodeme medially. Setae d1, d2, e1, and c2 at least 3 times longer than h1, h2, and ps3. Hysteronotum covered medially by triangular scales that are longer than wide. Genital papillae separate. Genital valves unsclerotized. Setae 4a situated on soft cuticle between sclerotized areas of coxae IV. Distal part of spermatheca narrow. Setae d I-II longer than respective solenidia o1; setae d III distinctly longer than tibiotarsus, excluding ambulacrum. Setae s I-II present. Seta e II inflated.

Measurements. Body 770-790 long, 210-220 wide; gnathosoma 70-77 long, 55-60 wide; prescapular shield 75-80 long; postscapular shield 80-85 long; legs III-IV 135-140 long; tibiotarsus III 45-50 long; tibiotarsus IV 50-55 long. Length of idiosomal setae: si 40-55, se 48-60, c2 and c3 40-45, cp 57-65, d1 35-45, d2 45-55, e1 60-65, e2 55-60, h1, h2, ps3 — all about 10, f2 and h3 about 220, 3a, 3b 20-22, and g — all about 20, 4a 40-42. Setae dI 45-55, II 37-40, III 85-110, IV 110-120. Length of idiosomal setae: o1 I-II 25-28, o3 I 37-38; q I-II 42-45, III 29-30, IV 15-16; o I-II 20-22, III 10-12.

**Key to males of the genus Atopomelus**

1. Postscapular shield with transverse lines. Opisthonotal surface behind hysteronotal shield tuberculate. Opisthognaster completely covered by scales or tubercles. Trochanter IV with dorsal spur species group “*locusta*” ........................................ 2

— Postscapular shield without ornamentation. Opisthognastal surface behind hysteronotal shield unornamented. Opisthognaster with few scales restricted to lateral parts. Trochanter IV without dorsal spur.................................. 4

2. Aedeagus about 2 times shorter than femur III. Setae d of trochanter IV about 3 times shorter than ventral spur. Genital valves unscerotized. Setae ps2 present. Setae s I-II present; seta e II inflated. Femurogeni IV with 2 unequal apices........................................... 3

— Aedeagus about 2.5 times longer than femur III. Seta d III about 3 times shorter than tibiotarsus III. Dorsal spur of trochanter IV about 3 times shorter than ventral spur. Genital valves widely separated from each other. Distal part of spermatheca broadened, but not globose. ................. .... 3

3. Copulatory papilla absent. Distal part of spermatheca slightly inflated within copulatory papilla. ........... ............................. A. priapus sp.nov.

— Copulatory opening on a narrow, subterminal papilla. Distal part of spermatheca slightly inflated within copulatory papilla. ........... ............................. A. locusta TROUSSART, 1818

4. Postscapular shield triangular, with strongly sclerotized median apodeme. Genital valves unscerotized. Setae 4a situated on soft cuticle between sclerotized areas of coxae IV, almost 2 times longer than setae g. Seta s I-II present. Seta e II inflated ........................................... . . A. talpae FAIN, LUKOSCHUS & CAUWENBERGE, 1973

— Postscapular shield rectangular, with deep and wide posterior median incision, covered by scale-like pattern. Genital valves sclerotized, separated, triangular in shape. Setae 4a situated on fused sclerotized areas of coxae IV, subequal in length to setae g. Seta s absent on all tarsi. Seta e II filiform. ........... ............................. A. crocidurae FAIN & LUKOSCHUS, 1977

**Key to females of the genus Atopomelus**

1. Hysteronotum covered medially by triangular scales that are longer than wide. Genital papillae separated. Distal part of spermatheca narrow. ......................... 2

2. Body 460-530 long. Seta d III-IV 2-3 times shorter than respective tibiotarsi. Genital valves fused to each other anteriorly, forming arched sclerite. Distal part of spermatheca broadened, but not globose. ................. .... 3

— Body 580-650 long. Seta d III-IV subequal in length to tibiotarsus. Genital valves widely separated from each other. Distal part of spermatheca globose. ............................................. A. locusta TROUSSART, 1818

3. Copulatory opening on a narrow, subterminal papilla. Distal part of spermatheca slightly inflated within copulatory papilla. ........... ............................. A. priapus sp.nov.

— Copulatory papilla absent. Distal part of spermatheca longer and distinctly broadened. ........... ............................. A. priapus sp.nov.

**Phylogenetic analysis**

The analysis yielded a single most parsimonious tree (length = 63, CI excluding uninformative characters 0.72, RI 0.83, RC 0.62) (Fig. 15). In this cladogram, the genus *Didelphoecius* is the sister group to *Atopomelus* while the two other close outgroup species form a separate clade. Analysis of character states across the entire family will be necessary to properly place *Atopomelus* phylogenetically, but certain retained plesiomorphies such as the presence of seta pR II suggest that the genus is a relatively early derivative lineage within the family.

The monophyly of *Atopomelus* is strongly supported in this analysis. The clade joining species of *Atopomelus* has the strongest Bremer support (16) and is diagnosed by 20 character state changes. Many of these changes such as the loss of clasping organs of coxae I (character 2), structure of the clasping organs of coxae II (3), ventrally curved tarsus II (36), stron-
The single most parsimonious tree (length = 66, CI excluding uninformative characters 0.7, RI 0.8, RC 0.59) found with the branch-and-bound search option obtained for the unordered and non-weighted data set. Character numbers are indicated on the tree above branches (DELTRAN optimization), their state changes indicated below branches, non-homoplasious state changes are in black, homoplasious state changes are in white, the numbers above branches indicate Bremer support indices.

The species *Atopomelus talpae* occupies the basal position in the genus. This species retains several plesiomorphic character states such as the short gnathosoma (character 1), presence of setae *ps2* in male (23), and setae *s I-II* (40).

The species group “locusta” is monophyletic. It has a high Bremer support index (6) and is diagnosed by seven character state changes, the ornamented postcapular shield in the male (character 7), genital papillae in female contiguous (11), distal part of spermatheca inflated (13), idiosomal scales of female wider than longer (14), presence of protuberances behind the hysteronotal shield in male (15), presence of a dorsal spur on trochanter IV in male (28), and the ventral spur on trochanter IV with a single apex in normal male (29 — reversal). Although relationships among the three species of this group are completely resolved, the node joining the species *Atopomelus hylomys* and *A. priapus* is only supported by two characters, 10 (genital valves fused) and 42 (setae *d III-IV* shorter than the segment). This node has a low Bremer support index (1). Therefore, it is possible that the sister relationship between these two species may change if additional species are discovered.

**Host parasite-associations**

*Atopomelus* species are mainly associated with oriental insectivores, gymnures of the genus *Hylomys* (Erinaceidae: Hylomyinae) and shrews of the genus *Crocidura* (Soricidae: Crocidurinae), with *Atopomelus talpae* being the only species found outside this region.

The gymnure genus *Hylomys* includes four species, and atopomelid mites of the group “hylomys” are known from two of them. *Atopomelus locusta* and *A. priapus* parasitize *H. sinensis*, and *A. hylomys* infects *H. suillus* in Vietnam. The two other species, *Hylomys hainanensis* (Shaw & Wong, 1959) and *H. megalotis* (Jenkins & Robinson, 2002) are known from few specimens and have not yet been examined for ectoparasites. Since the erinaceid subfamily Hylomyinae includes two other genera, *Podogymnura* with two species endemic to the Philippines, and *Echinosorex* with one species, *E. gymnura* (Raffles, 1822), which is widely distributed in the Oriental region, we examined available specimens of these hosts for the presence of *Atopomelus* species. We examined sixty-four specimens of *Podogymnura truei* Mearns, 1905, from Mindanao island, however no atopomelids were found. We believe this sampling demonstrates that these mites are completely absent on this host. The second species of *Podogymnura, P. aureospinula* Heaney & Morgan, 1982, which occurs only on Dinagat Island, has not been examined yet. We have examined fourteen specimens of *E. gymnurus* without recovering *Atopomelus* specimens, however, additional material should be examined before a final conclusion is reached.

Fur mites in general, and *Atopomelus* in particular are probably completely absent on hedgehogs of the subfamily Erinaceinae. We have examined numerous specimens of several species without encountering...
Fig. 16. *Lemuroptes potto* stat. nov., male. A. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view.
Fig. 17. *Lemuroptes potto* stat. nov., female. A. — Dorsal view. B. — Ventral view.
these mites. On these hosts, the biotope of atopomelids, the thin body hairs, has largely undergone strong modification into spines. Non-spiny hairs are, however, still present and could serve as habitat for fur mites as they do on the morphologically convergent Madagascar spiny-tenrecs (Afrosoricida: Tenrecidae: Tenrecinae) that harbor atopomelid mites of genera other than *Atopomelus*.

A single species of *Atopomelus, A. crocidurae* has been collected on seven shrew species of the genus *Crocidura*. This species was relatively common on the Oriental shrews we examined (9 of 30 individuals representing 3 host species from Borneo; 21 of 31 individuals representing 4 host species from the Philippines). However, atopomelids of this genus are completely absent on African shrews, including many species of *Crocidura*, based on our examination of several hundred host specimens representing many species from different regions of East and Central Africa. A modern phylogenetic hypothesis for Southeast Asian shrews was proposed by *Ruedi & Vogel* (1995). *Atopomelus crocidurae* is associated with hosts belonging to different clades of their cladogram (*Ruedi & Vogel*, 1995, p. 212, Fig. 5), suggesting either an old association with the Asian lineage or more recent colonization of different host species.

*Atopomelus talpae* was described from *Talpa romana* (Talpidae) in Italy (*Fain et al.*, 1973). This record was not the result of museum contamination because the mites were collected directly from a freshly collected host animal. No other species of Atopomelidae are known from native mammals in Europe, nor are any reported from other species of Talpidae.

The distribution of *Atopomelus* species on these host taxa is an intriguing problem. Comparing our phylogeny with published host phylogenies is difficult because different data sets have led to different phylogenetic conclusions with respect to the host taxa. Traditional morphological analyses yielded two different phylogenies of the three host families as follows (Erinaceidae (Talpidae + Soricidae)) (*Butler, 1988* vs. (Soricidae (Erinaceidae + Talpidae)) (*McKenna & Bell, 1997*), while more recent molecular studies support (Talpidae (Erinaceidae + Soricidae)) (*Douady et al., 2002*) or place Erinaceidae outside a more inclusive group of eutherian orders (*Mouchat et al., 2000*). *Grenyer & Purvis* (2003) conducted a supertree analysis combining phylogenetic information from 47 published sources to arrive at a conclusion congruent with the hypothesis of Butler (1988) above. Using this last hypothesis as an estimate of the host phylogeny, there are three alternative scenarios for the origin of host parasite associations in these mites. Because of the restricted host ranges of the *Atopomelus* species, the parasite phylogeny cannot be congruent with that of their hosts, necessitating some hypotheses of colonization and/or extinction.

According to the first scenario, these mites were originally associated with the common ancestor of Eulipotyphla and coevolved with these hosts. However, replacing the hosts for the parasites in the parasite phylogeny yields a pattern completely incongruent with the family level host phylogeny of *Grenyer & Purvis* (2003). This hypothesis is, however, congruent at the family level with the host phylogeny of *Douady et al.* (2002) but would still require very extensive extinction of the parasite lineage on most extant host groups.

The second scenario is that the ancestor of *Atopomelus* was originally associated with Palaearctic crocidurine shrews and secondarily colonized a talpid in Europe and gymnures in Asia. The phylogeny of the Crocidurinae is highly unsettled, but recent work suggests that the genus *Crocidura* probably originated in Africa, followed by migration to the western Palaearctic, finally reaching the Indomalayan region relatively recently (*Ruedi & Vogel, 1995*). Thus, the absence of *Atopomelus* on African Crocidura species suggests that the association with Oriental shrews was the result of a later colonization. This scenario also requires the extinction of *Atopomelus* on the surviving Palaearctic *Crocidura* species and a very slow rate of speciation yielding a single *Atopomelus* species on a number of different Asian shrew hosts, while more rapid speciation yielded the three known species on gymnures.

The third, and we believe most likely scenario is that *Atopomelus* was originally associated with gymnures. The relatively plesiomorphic morphology of this genus suggests a great age for the lineage. Although currently restricted to the Oriental region, the fossil record of the gymnure subfamily Hylomyi-
Finally, the species of the Crocidurinae Crocidura onto an early Asian basal, relictual species, and Crocidurinae. An early colonization of the where these hosts were sympatric with both Talpidae, Europe (B 1988; M nae extends from the Oligocene to the Pliocene of (PEET) to BMOC. 238

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Appendix


**Genus Lemuroptes** **Lawrence**, 1958

*Type species:* *Lemuroptes primarius* **Lawrence**, 1958, by monotypy.

*Description.* Adults. Length and wide of gnathosoma subequal, bearing a pair of well developed ventro-lateral valves. Prescapular shield with deep anteromedian incision. Coxae I and II with well developed striated membranes. Setation of idiosoma: *scx, si, se, c2, c3, cp, d1, d2, e1, e2, h1, h2, h3, ps1-3, 1a, 3a, 3b, g, 4a.* Cupules not observed. Coxal fields of legs III closely situated to each other, coxal fields of legs IV distinctly separated. Anterior apodemes of coxae I-III each fused mesally. Setation of legs I-IV: I trochanter 0, femur 1 (*vF,* genu 3 (*cG, mG, f1*), tibia 2 (*gT, q*), tarsus 9 (*wa, ra, la, d, e, f, e, o1, o3*), setae *ba* not observed; II trochanter 0, femur 1 (*vF,* genu 3 (*cG, mG, a*), tibia 2 (*gT, q*), tarsus 7 (*wa, ra, la, d, e, f, o1*), seta *ba* not observed; III trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 1 (e), tibiotarsus 8 (*tibia — kT, q,* tarsus — *wa, ra, s, d, e, f*); IV trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 0, tibiotarsus 8 (*tibia — kT, q,* tarsus — *wa, ra, d, e, f*). Male (Figs. 14, 16A-D). Idiosoma elongated, 2 times longer than wide. Postscapular shield very short, hysteronotal shield short, separated medially, bearing only setae *d1* and *d2.* Postgenital shield absent. Adanal suckers absent. Opisthosomal lobes well developed, bearing setae *el, f2, h1-3,* and *ps3.* Opisohsoma without membranous posterior extension. Legs IV hypertrophied, distinctly longer than legs III. Femur and genu IV fused and strongly reinforced. Tarsus III with distinct apical dorsal spur. Tibiotarsus IV short, about 2 timesshorter than tibiotarsus III, without ambulacrum, all its setae thick, setae *ra* and *f* expanded, membranous, terminally positioned. Female (Fig. 15). Idiosoma strongly elongated, about 3 times longer than wide. Postscapular shield very short, separated medially. Hysteronotal shield absent. Soft cuticle of idiosoma covered by transverse striations, protuberances and scales. Epygim completely fused with anterior apodemes of coxae III. Genital valves situated between coxae III. 2 pairs of genital papillae present. Tarsi III and IV with distinct apical dorsal spur. Larva. Gnathosoma as in adults. Idiosoma as in female but postscapular shield absent. Idiosomal setation: *scx, sci, see, e2, c3, cp, d1, d2, e1, e2, h1, h2, 1a, 3b.* Leg setation: I trochanter 0, femur 1 (*vF,* genu 3 (*cG, mG, a1*), tibia 2 (*gT, q*), tarsus 9 (*wa, ra, la, d, e, f, e, o1*), setae *ba* and *s* not observed; II trochanter 0, femur 1 (*vF,* genu 3 (*cG, mG, a*), tibia 2 (*gT, q*), tarsus 7 (*wa, ra, la, d, e, f, o1*), seta *ba* not observed; III trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 1 (e), tibiotarsus 8 (*tibia — kT, q,* tarsus — *wa, ra, s, d, e, f*). Protonymph. Postscapular shield absent. Setae *f2, h3,* *ps1-3,* *3b,* and *g* added. One pair of genital papillae present between coxae IV. Leg setation as in larva, except setae *d, ra,* and *wa* of tarsus IV added. Teleonymph. Postscapular shield absent. Setae *3a* and *4a* added on idiosoma, setae *kT* and *q* added on tibia IV, and setae *e, f* added on tarsus IV. Setae *f2* and *h3* microsetae. 2 pairs of genital papillae present between coxae IV. Setae *3a* microsetae, situated between coxae IV in anterior part.


*Material examined.* *Lemuroptes attenuatus:* Holotype female (MRAC 140063) ex *Galagoides demidoff* (Fischer, 1806) (=Galago demidovii) (MRAC 16513), **CONGO:** Kingshasa, Makala. *Lemuroptes bursatus:* Holotype female (MRAC 140064) ex *Otolemur (=Galago) crassicaudatus* (Geoffroy, 1812), **SOUTH AFRICA:** Mbuzi, 7 March 1965, coll F. Zumpt; male paratype (MRAC 140065) *O. crassicaudatus* (MRAC 31204), **CONGO:** Shaba, Lubumbashi, coll. Poelman. *Lemuroptes potto:* Male holotype (MRAC 140061) and paratype female (MRAC 140062) ex *Perodicticus potto* (Müller, 1766), **CONGO:** Virunga National Park, Mutwanga, 1956; 4 males, 26 females, 1 larva, 8 protonymphs and 12 teleonymphs (BMOC 92-0605-132) ex *P. potto* (FMNH 148986), **BURUNDI:** Cibitoke Prov., Kibira National Park, Ndora Zone, Gisera Colinc., 24 August 1991, J.C. Kerbis (JCK 2971). *Lemuroptes zumpti:* Holotype female (MRAC
Genus *Micropotamogalichus* Fain, 1970  
*Type species:* *Micropotamogalichus congoensis* Fain, 1970

**Description.** Adults. Gnathosoma distinctly longer than wide, bearing a pair of well developed ventrolateral valves. Prescapular shield widely separated medially; postscapular shield strongly reduced, represented by pair of lateral sclerotized patches. Coxae I and II with well developed striated membranes. Setation of idiosoma: scx, si, se, c2, c3, cp, d1, d2, e1, e2, f2, h1, h2, h3, ps1-3, 1a, 3a, 3b, g, 4a. Cupules not observed. Coxal fields of legs III closely situated to each other, coxal fields of legs IV distinctly separated. Anterior apodemes of coxae I-III each fused mesally fused. Setation of legs I-IV: I trochanter 0, femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, σ1), tibia 2 (gT, q), tarsus ?; II trochanter 0, femur 1 (vF), genu 3 (cG, mG, σ), tibia 2 (gT, q), tarsus ?; III trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 1 (σ), tibiotarsus 8 (tibia — kT, q, tarsus — wa, ra, s, d, e, f); IV trochanter 0, femur 0, genu 0, tibiotarsus 8 (tibia — kT, q, tarsus — wa, ra, d, e, f). Male. Idiosoma elongated, more 2 times longer than wide. Hysteronotal shield short, broadly divided medially, devoid of setae. Postgenital shield absent. Adanal suckers absent. Anal fold well sclerotized. Opisthosomal lobes and membrane absent. Legs IV not modified. Tibiotarsus IV similar to tibiotarsus III, with ambulacrum, setae ra modified, occupying terminal position. Female. Idiosoma strongly elongated, about 3 times longer than wide. Postscapular shield very short, divided medially. Hysteronotal shield absent. Unsclerotized cuticle of idiosoma covered by transverse striations and scales. Epyginum completely fused with anterior apodemes of coxae III. Genital valves situated between coxae III. 2 pairs of genital papillae present.

**Included species.** *Micropotamogalichus congoensis* Fain, 1970 (Fain. 16E-I).

**Material examined** Holotype male (MRAC 140069) and female paratype (MRAC 140068) ex *Micropotamogale ruwenzorii* (de Witte & Frechkop, 1955), CONGO: Orientale Prov., Tshabunda, Kisanga, 23 June 1960, coll. RAHM.

Genus *Didelphoeclus* Fain, 1970