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A NEW SPECIES OF MITE (ACARI : LAELAPIDAE) PARASITIC ON THE SIKKIM LARGE-CLAWED SHREW IN WEST NEPAL

BY W. M. TILL *

The material on which the new species, Dipolaelaps nepalensis, is based was sent to me for identification by Dr. F.S. Lukoschus, Katholieke Universiteit, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Dipolaelaps nepalensis is very close to Dipolaelaps hoi Chang and Hsü (1965) which was described from Microtus sp. in Sichuan Province, Southwest China. It differs from D. hoi in that the genital shield of the female is wider posteriorly and the pilus dentilis is strongly inflated and not rod-like. The posterior seta on coxa III is not as stout and spine-like as in D. hoi. In the male a stout subapical spur is present on tarsi II and IV only, whereas in D. hoi tarsi II, III and IV all bear a stout subapical spur, as figured in Pan and Teng (1980).

Dipolaelaps nepalensis sp. nov.

Female (Figs. 1A, B, E) : Chela with inflated pilus dentilis having a hooked tip; movable digit of chelicera with two minute teeth; arthrodiaphragmata uniform in length. Six transverse rows of hypognathal denticles, one to three denticles per row. Internal malae not clearly visible in holotype, slender, tapering, pilose in a paratype. Chaetotaxy of palptrochanter to tibia (2-5-6-14).

Dorsal shield broadly oval in shape, weakly reticulate marginally, otherwise mainly granular in appearance, with 39 pairs of setae. Setae very short and fine, marginal setae slightly longer; setae Z5 about five times as long as setae J5. Length of shield about 540 μm, width about 350 μm (at level of setae J5).

Tritosternum with two pilose laciniae. Sternal shield 77 μm long, 135 μm wide at level of second pair of setae; first pair of sternal setae on reticulate presternal area. Metasternal setae and pores free on soft cuticle. Genital shield wedge-shaped with rounded posterior corners; 80 μm wide at level of genital setae, 128 μm wide posteriorly; bordered by three pairs of fine setae. Anal shield reticulate, 99 μm long (to base of postanal seta), greatest width 178 μm. Anus situated in posterior region of


Fig. 1: Dipolaelaps nepalensis sp. nov.
Dorsum (A) and venter (B) of female; venter of male (C), chelicera of male (D) and female (E); tarsus II (F), tarsus III (G) and tarsus IV (H) of male.
Fig. 2: *Dipolaelaps nepalensis* sp. nov.

Dorsum (a) and venter (b) of deutonymph; dorsum (c) and venter (d) of protonymph.
shield. Lateral opisthogastric setae longer and stouter than those bordering the genital shield. Peritremes extending to coxae I, anterior peritrematal shields fused with dorsal shield, posterior shields free.

Legs stout, with chaetotaxy as in the genus *Androlaelaps*.

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Seta av, on tarsi II, III and IV stout, pointed and spine-like.

**Male** (Figs. 1c, d, f, g, h) : Chelicerae with long, slender spermatodactyl. Dorsal shield as in female, 492 μm × 317 μm. Holoventral shield reticulate, widely expanded behind coxae IV. First pair of sternal setae on reticulate presternal area. Remaining two pairs of sternal setae, metasternal, genital, five pairs of opisthogastre setae and three anal setae on the shield. Marginal setae on soft cuticle of opisthogaster stout and spine-like.

Chaeotaxy of legs as in female. Tarsi II and IV each with a stout, blunt, subapical spur-like seta. Seta av, on tarsi II to IV stout, pointed and spine-like.

**Deuteronymph** (Figs. 2a, b) : Chelicerae as in female, with inflated pilus dentilis. Dorsal shield 442 μm long, 254 μm wide at level of setae z5. Chaetotaxy consisting of normal laelapid complement of j-J, z-Z and s-S setae.

Sternal shield with three pairs of sternal and one pair of metasternal setae, its posterior tip extending between the genital setae. Anal shield 73 μm long to base of postanal seta, greatest width 127 μm. Opisthogaster bears five pairs of slender setae medially and 11 to 13 pairs of stout setae posterolaterally. Peritremes extend anteriorly at least to middle of coxa I. Metapodal shields ovoid. Legs stout, as in female.

**Protonymph** (Figs. 2c, d) : Chelicerae as in female, with inflated pilus dentilis. Chaetotaxy of pedipalp trochanter to tibia (1-4-5-12). Dorsum bears an anterior podonotal shield (215 μm long, greatest width 188 μm), a smaller pygidial shield (96 μm × 178 μm) and three pairs of mesonotal scutellae. The normal laelapid complement of j-J, z-Z and s-S setae is present.

Sternal shield with three pairs of setae, one pair of small genital setae between coxae IV. Anal shield 56 μm long to base of postanal seta, greatest width 68 μm. Peritremes short, extending to level of middle of coxae III. Opisthogaster bears three pairs of slender setae medially and one pair of stout setae lateral to posterior third of anal shield.


Holotype deposited in Rijksmuseum van Natuur-

REFERENCES

