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INTRODUCTION

Members of the genus Acarophenax Newstead & Duvall 1918, have been noted to be parasites of various insects. Newstead and Duvall (1918) described A. tribolii. A. nidicolus and A. lacunatus were described by Cross and Krantz (1964). Livshitz and Mitrofanov (1974) described A. assonovi.

The present species, A. meropsi, n. sp. was collected from the European bee eater, Merops apiaster at Giza governorate during a survey of mites associated with birds in Egypt.

Terminology used to describe the new species is that of Lindquist (1977).

Acarophenax meropsi n. sp.,

(Fig. 1, 1-G)

■ Diagnosis:

Non-gravid females most closely resembling those of A. nidicolus Cross & Krantz, differing from them in having much longer dorsal setae, a stronger anterior sternal apodema, and more well-developed apodema 3.

ACAROPHENAX MEROPSI N. SP.,
FROM THE EUROPEAN BEE EATER,
MEROPS APIASTER IN EGYPT,
(ACARI : TARSONEMIDA)

by M. A. Rakha* and M. M. H. Kandeel*

Description of non-gravid female: Body broadly elliptical, convex dorsally, with glimmering whitish colour when alive. Gnathosoma elliptical with slightly tapered anterior end of hypognathus type, overlapped completely by anterior part of propodosoma, with two pairs of setae, the apical pair much longer. Palp inconspicuous, completely fused with gnathosoma.

Propodosomal shield trapezoidal with three pairs of simple setae. Peritrema elongate located on anterior margin of propodosomal shield and leading to a rounded internal atrium.

Dorsal hysterosomal setae simple with setae $p_s < f < p_s < p_s < C_3 < C_1 = d < e$.

Ventrally, gnathosoma having a pair of gnathosomal ventrals, simple and short, another pair of minute setae occurring on the fused palpi. Apodema 1 form an archlike border on circumgnathosomal foramen; apodema 2 well-developed, thick near trochanter II but narrowing towards anterior sternal apodema and not reaching it; anterior sternal apodema thick anteriorly, thinner medially, thickening to a triangular end posteriorly; sejugal apodema thick towards trochanter II and becoming faint towards its connection with anterior sternal apodema; apodema 3 well-developed becoming narrower anteromedially and ending beside setae 3b; apodema 4 similarly

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Acarophenax meropsi n. sp., non-gravid female.
A) Dorsum; B) Ventrum; C) Dorsum of gnathosoma; D-G) Legs I-IV, respectively.
thinner anteromedially and ending at level of seta 4a; apodema 5 thin, nearly y-shaped; posterior sternal apodema absent. Coxal plates I and II each with one pair long setae. Coxal plates III and IV each with two pairs of setae. A pair of star-shaped fissures occurring between setae 4a. Setae 4b simple and long; a pair of genital setae present on mid-venter of opisthosoma. Ventral setae simple and long, apparently subequal, except setae 1 and 4a the shortest.

**Legs** : Setal formula of trochanters (1-1-1-1); femora (3-3-2-2); genua (4-3-2-1); tibiae II-IV (4-4-4); tarsi II-IV (5-5-4); tibiotarsus I (16 simple setae + 2 solenidia); tibia II bears a solenidion; each of tarsi II and IV bearing a solenidion; seta c of femur I hooklike; leg I with a stout sessile, anchor-shaped claw; legs II-IV possessing pretarsi which are nearly longer than tarsi and lacking claws.

Body 190 μ long and 135 μ wide.


**Paratype** : Another non-gravid female collected from the same host and locality as the holotype. No males were captured.

**REFERENCES**


*Paru en octobre 1983.*