

A NEW SCUTACARID AND SOME PYEMOTID MITES FROM IRAN

BY

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This is the first reporting of mites collected during the period September, 1966 through May, 1967, while the second author served as Fulbright Scholar on assignment to the Institute for Public Health Research, School of Public Health at the University of Tehran. The primary task was to collect and examine the mite fauna of Iran with the purpose of developing a reference collection for use in field and health-related investigations.

Gratitude is due Dr. Ch. MOFIDI, Director of the Institute and Dr. A. MESGHALI, Chief of the Environmental Biology Section for providing laboratory facilities and assistance both at the Institute and at the Medical Stations in the provinces. Particular thanks must go to the U. S. Committee on International Exchange of Persons in providing the grant under the Fulbright-Hays Act.

The photograph shows a pile of manure in the background. It also contains other organic debris of diverse origins, a common sight in villages for use as both fertilizer and fuel.

SCUTACARIDAE.

Heterodispus verrucosus sp. nov.

Length : 265-282 μ . Width : 192-200 μ .

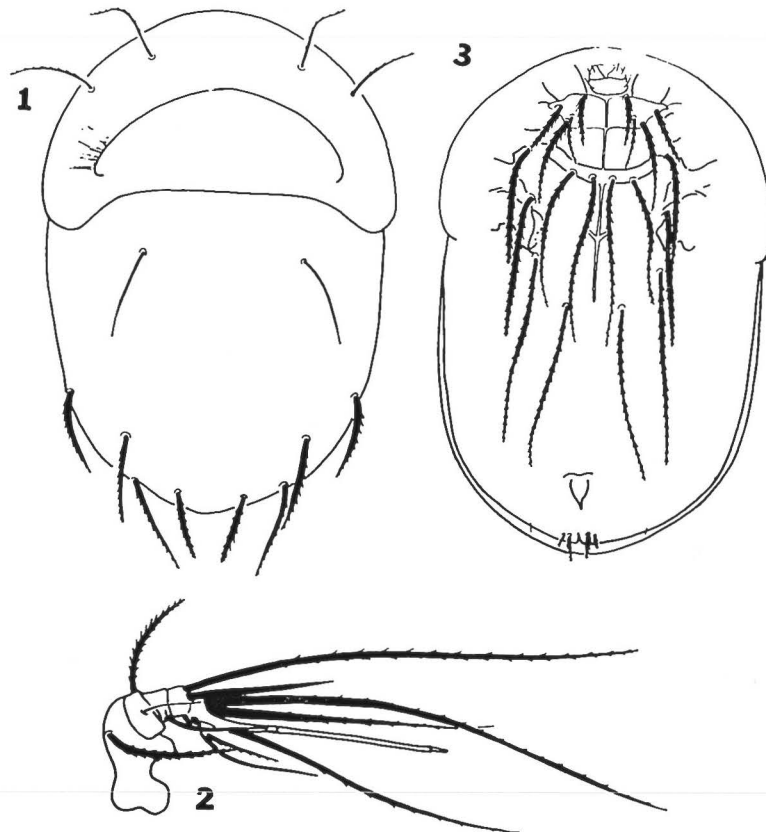
Dorsal side (Fig. 1) : Clypeal margin extremely wide, hardly recognizable, its hairs thin, curved. Setae dorsales thin, setae lumbales and setae sacrales incrassate, well discernibly ciliate. Setae sacrales externae essentially longer than internae.

VENTRAL SIDE (Fig. 3) : Except for setae coxales II internae, all hairs of anterior sternal plate incrassate and heavily ciliate. Anterior margin of posterior sternal plate medially deeply and arcuately excised ; setae praesternales arising on its thickened border, rather near but equidistant from each other. Both pairs extend to points of origin of setae poststernales internae. Setae axillares extremely incrassate. Caudal hairs minute, setae caudales internae thickened.

LEGS : Tibiotarsus of leg I with a large claw ; hair *j* very thick, hair *l* quite small, thin, similar to hair *m*. Trochanter of leg IV (Fig. 2) deeply excised, hair *a* heavily incrassate. Tarsus long.

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TYPE MATERIAL : One holotype from manure at the home of Mohamad BONDZ (Fig. 4), February 14, 1967, located in the village of Isin near Bandar Abbas with four paratypes from the same locality and date of collection. The holotype and two paratypes are deposited in the Zoological Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, and the other two paratypes are deposited in the Acarology Laboratory, Environmental Biology Section, Institute for Public Health Research, University of Tehran, Iran.



FIGS. 1-3 : *Heterodispus verrucosus* sp. nov. Dorsal side (1). — trochanter of leg IV (2). — ventral side (3).

REMARKS : The new species stands nearest to *H. pubescens* Mahunka, 1968, recently described from Mongolia. However, the dorsal hairs of the latter species show dissimilar proportions among themselves. The praesternal hairs are shorter and only the setae praesternales internae extend to the insertional points of the inner poststernal hairs. There are certain differences also in the chaetotaxy of leg IV.

PYEMOTIDAE.

Pediculaster mesembrinae (R. Canestrini, 1880).

LOCALITY : Village of Harmodar manure pile north of the major city of Bandar Abbas on February 13, 1967.

Neopygmephorus centriger (Cooreman, 1951).

LOCALITY : Chicken manure in the villages of Denart (home of Mr. KHAKI) and Soosart (home of Mr. ALI), collected April 10 and 12, 1967, respectively ; from cow manure in the village of Shahrestan (home of Mr. MOHAMAD) collected April 9, 1967. The villages lie to the northeast of the major city of Isfahan.



FIG. 4 : Manure pile collecting site (behind animals) of holotype *Heterodispus verrucosus* sp. nov. at home of M. BONDAB, Isin (Bandar Abbas), Iran.

This species is satisfactorily identifiable with European specimens, the sole difference appearing merely in the shorter setae sacrales.

REFERENCE CITED

MAHUNKA (S.), 1969. — Ergebnisse der zoologischen Forschungen von Dr. Z. KASZAB in der Mongolei. 176. Acari : Pyemotidae and Scutacaridae IV. Reichenbachia, 11. [In Press].