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Subscriptions: Year 2018 (Volume 58): 380 €
http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/acarologia/subscribe.php
Previous volumes (2010-2016): 250 € / year (4 issues)
Acarologia, CBGP, CS 30016, 34988 MONTFERRIER-sur-LEZ Cedex, France

The digitalization of Acarologia papers prior to 2000 was supported by Agropolis Fondation under
the reference ID 1500-024 through the « Investissements d’avenir » programme
(Labex Agro: ANR-10-LABX-0001-01)

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A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS TUCKERELLA FROM U.A.R.
(ACARINA : TUCKERELLIDAE)

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

Members of family Tuckerellidae are phytophagous mites, feeding on plant sap. During a survey of mites associated with citrus trees in the U.A.R., few numbers of an undescribed species were found.

In 1953 BAKER and PRITCHARD created the family Tuckerellidae of the superfamily Tetranychoidae according to the genus Tuckerella Womersley that was formerly assigned to Tetranychidae. They stated that this genus included the only two species T. ornata (Tucker) and T. pavoniformis (Ewing). Womersley 1957 recorded another species T. spechtae from south Australia, while MILLER (1964) described the fourth species T. flabellifera from Tasmania.

This paper however deals with the description of the new fifth species which was collected from fruits and buds of orange trees in Upper Egypt.

Key to adult females of the world known species of genus Tuckerella Womersley, 1940.

1. Last four palmate setae on dorsum with outer pair larger than inner pair...... 2
   —Last four palmate setae on dorsum with outer pair smaller or subequal to the inner pair .................................................. 3

2. Caudum with five pairs of long flagellate setae................. flabellifera Miller
   —Caudum with six pairs of long flagellate setae................. pavoniformis (Ewing)

3. Caudum with five pairs of long flagellate setae.................. ornata (Tucker)
   —Caudum with six pairs of long flagellate setae.................. nilotica sp. n.
   —Caudum with seven pairs of long flagellate setae............. spechtae Womersley.

Acarologia, t. XI, fasc. 4, 1969.
**Tuckerella nilotica** sp. n.  
*(Fig. 1)*.

*Diagnosis* (female). This species may be recognized by having six caudal ciliated flagellate setae as *T. pavoniformis* (Ewing), but differs in that the outer pair of the last four palmate hysterosomals is slightly subequal to the inner pair; the anterodistal sensory rod on tarsus I is slightly longer than the posterodistal; the first pair of propodosomals is not reticulated.

*Female*: Body elongate oval and red; dorsum reticulated, with suture line between propodosoma and hysterosoma, and another between the podosoma and opisthosoma. Propodosoma with four pairs of dorsal palmate setae; with two pairs of eyes, the anterior smaller than the posterior. Hysterosoma with 18 pairs of dorsal palmate setae, 7 laterals and II in 4 transverse rows (4, 3, 2 and 2); the two posterior palmate hysterosomals are the smallest and with the outer pair subequal to the inner; the last four laterals large and elongate; six pairs of long ciliated flagellate setae as long as the body, born on dorsal tubercles very near to the posterior end of the hysterosoma and extending caudally.

Palpus five segmented; tarsus long, slender and bearing a sensory rod; tibia with curved claw slightly shorter than the tarsus and with 3 setae. Legs short.

*Fig. 1: Tuckerella nilotica*, dorsal view.
and thick; tarsi with 2 claws and empodium and pectinate series of tenent hairs. Tarsus I with two sensory rods, the anterodistal slightly longer than the postero-distal; tibia I with small sensory rod; tarsi II with anterior sensory rod very much longer than the posterior; tibia, genu and femur of legs I, II and III with dorsal palmate setae while tibia and genu IV with long serrate setae.

*Male.* Unknown.

Holotype. Female collected from fruits of orange trees, Assuit, Upper Egypt, U.A.R. in 1965 and deposited in the collection of Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University.

Paratypes. Two females with the same data of holotype.

**REFERENCES**


