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Previous volumes (2010-2017): 250 € / year (4 issues)
Acarologia, CBGP, CS 30016, 34988 MONTFERRIER-sur-LEZ Cedex, France
ISSN 0044-586X (print), ISSN 2107-7207 (electronic)

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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Neoschoengastia brevipalpis André 1946
is a true Cheladonta (Acari, Trombiculidae) ¹

by

P. H. Vercammen-Grandjean ² et M. André ³.

Abstract.

Neoschoengastia brevipalpis was first described in 1946 by the second author (M. A.) ¹ from six specimens collected by Dr. J. Colas-Belcour on an African rodent, Meriones shawi from Carthage, Tunisia, in 1927. When André described this unusual species, the taxonomic scheme permitted him to classify it only among the Neoschoengastia. It was ten years later that the genus Cheladonta was recognized. This paper now proposes to classify N. brevipalpis as a true Cheladonta ² (3) (4) (5) (6) (8) (10) (11).

From the study of two slides, paratypes #391 and #391 A, the following data were gathered:

Cheladonta brevipalpis (André, 1946).

= Neoschoengastia brevipalpis André, 1946 a (1).
= Ascoschoengastia brevipalpis, Lawrence, 1949 (7).
= Euschoengastia brevipalpis, Wharton & Fuller, 1952 (12), Radford, 1954 (9).

A. — Redescription:

1) Measurements of two paratypes: in micra.

| AW | PW | SB | ASB | PSB | SD | AP | AM | AL | PL | S | H | D | P | V | pa | pm | pp | Ip |
|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| #391 | 51 | 60 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 35 | 19 | 25 | 19 | 26 | 29/29 | 25 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 186 | 206 | 673 |
| #391 A | 48 | 64 | 20 | 20 | 14 | 34 | 19 | 24 | 19 | 30 | 32/32 | 25 | 21 | 18/24 | 208 | 171 | 198 | 577 |

2) Scutum: (Fig. 2) wider than long, sparsely punctate with a trama of larger punctae near the PL. Anterior margin concave, lateral margins concave and

1. This work was supported by Research Grant AI-03793 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, U.S. Public Health Service.
2. Research Parasitologist: The George Williams Hooper Foundation, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, California, 94122, U.S.A.

Cheladonta brevipalpis (André, 1946)
posterior margin largely convex (with slight posterocentral concavity). Sensillae claviform, covered with spicules (total length 32 μ, peduncle 13 μ, expansion: length 19 μ, diameter 13 μ. PL > AM > AL, these three setae more or less plumose.

Eye-lenses, one pair (Y = 1.1).

3) Idiosoma: (Figs 2 & 6) As the senior author (M. A.) showed in Fig. 1 (1946), all the specimens collected were largely engorged and the body pleats (episternum) are largely open as shown on our Fig. 2. The body setae are as follows: fD = 2 (2H) = 10.8.8.2.4.4 = 40 dorsal setae, fV = 4.6.4.4.4.4 = 26 ventral setae, and NDV = 40 + 26 = 66 idiosomal setae. Body setae (humeral, dorsal, pygosomal and ventral) are as on Fig. 6. The uropore is between the setae of the fifth ventral row.

4) Legs: (Figs. 3, 4 & 5) relatively short as is usually the case for members of the genus Cheladonta; Ip = 577-613. All legs are seven-segmented but with relatively short articles well sclerotized.

Leg 1: (a) tarsus with mediodorsal solenidion (17 μ), its short famulus bearing a little to the side. Subterminala and parasubterminala subequal, but the former is slightly thicker, pretarsala nude.

(b) tibia with two subapical solenidia with a small famulus between them.

(c) genu with two nude genualae and a short distal famulus.

Leg 2: (a) tarsus with mediodorsal solenidion (15 μ), with a small famulus bearing to the side, nude pretarsala present.

(b) tibia with two solenidia, one more distal than the other.

(c) genu with one nude genuala.

Leg 3: only one nude genuala, no nude tibiala, no mastisetae. Coxae unisetose, fCx = 1.1.1; sternum tetrasetose; fSt = 2.2.

5) Gnathosome: (Fig. 1) small, but strong and fairly sclerotized. Chelostyle with long, festooned, tricuspid cap. Palpo-tibial claw with four prongs. Galeala nude (Ga = N). Palpo-tarsus with four branched setae (fT = 4B). Palpal formula, FPp = B/B/BBB.

6) Synthetic Identification Formula: SIF = 4B-N-4-2110.0000.

B. — Host.
Meriones shawi (= Meriones libycus libycus).

C. — Locality & date.
Carthage (Tunisia, North Africa), 1927.
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