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TWO NEW SPECIES OF *PETROBIA*  
(ACARINA : TETRANYCHIDAE)

BY

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The following two species were taken on coarse grass at Tunisia, North Africa by J. W. GENTRY. They appear to be distinct from any known species and are here described as new.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. E. W. BAKER for drawing my attention to these species.

***Petrobia tunisiae* n. sp.**

(Figs. 1-6).

In PRITCHARD and BAKER'S "A revision of the spider mite family Tetranychidae" 1955, p. 45 this species keys out to *Petrobia apicalis* (Banks) from which it obviously differs as follows.

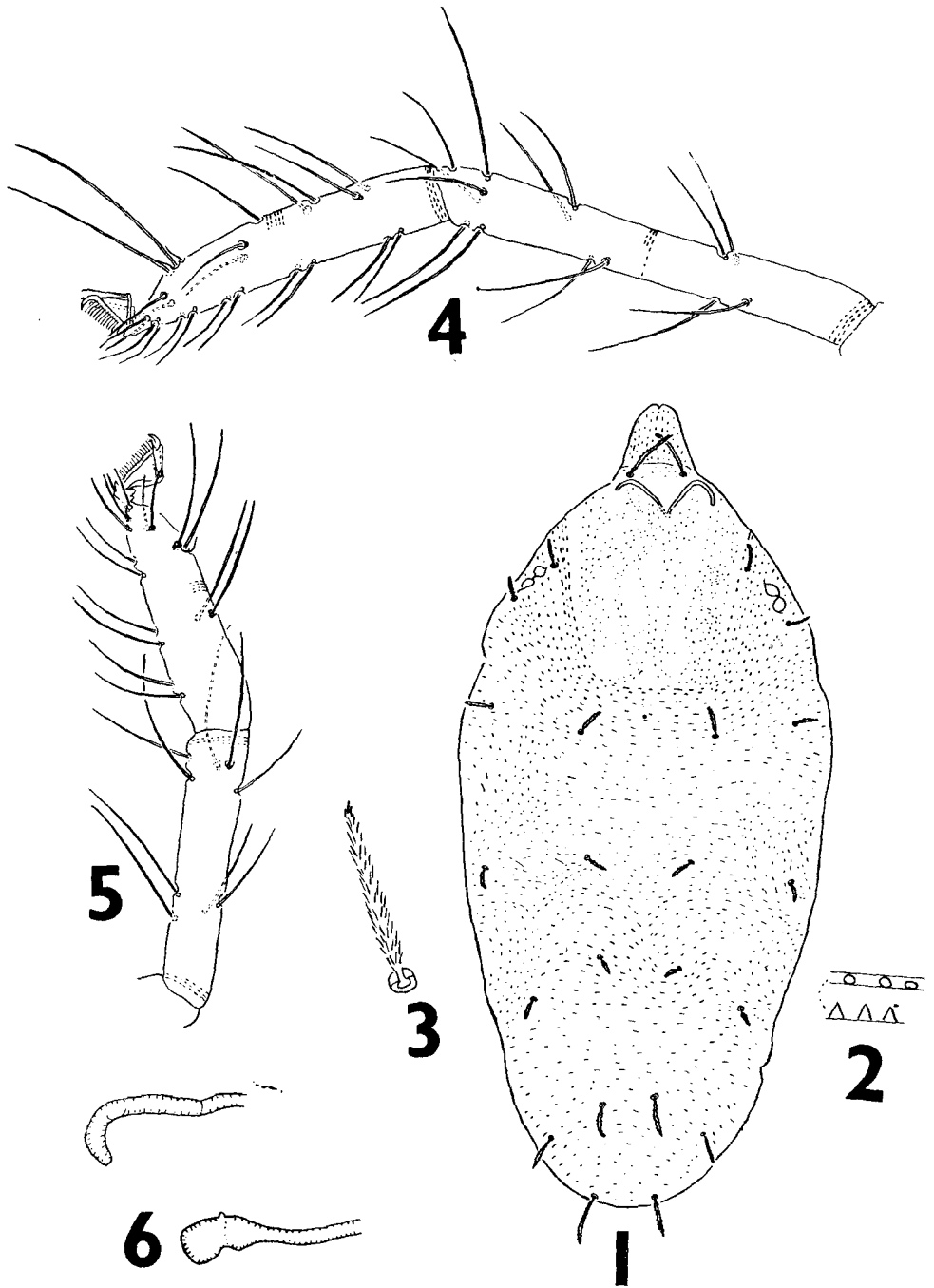
The body is more elongate. The inner and outer sacrals are not situated on tubercles and the clunal setae are as long as the sacrals. The arms of the peritreme end as a simple hook and do not form an anastomosing bulb.

*Female.* — Length of body 613  $\mu$ ; greatest width of body 319  $\mu$ . The dorsal body setae are short with the exception of the anterior dorsal propodosomals, sacrals and clunals which are distinctly longer. Individual setae are elongate and strongly pubescent (Fig. 3). Body surface striate; individual striations tend to be conical when viewed laterally, otherwise may appear spherical (Fig. 2). Of particular note is the anterior dorsal propodosomal shield which is typical of many species of the genus. Peritreme ending in a simple hook. Legs II and III slightly shorter than the body; legs I and IV about the same length as the body.

*Male.* — No males were observed.

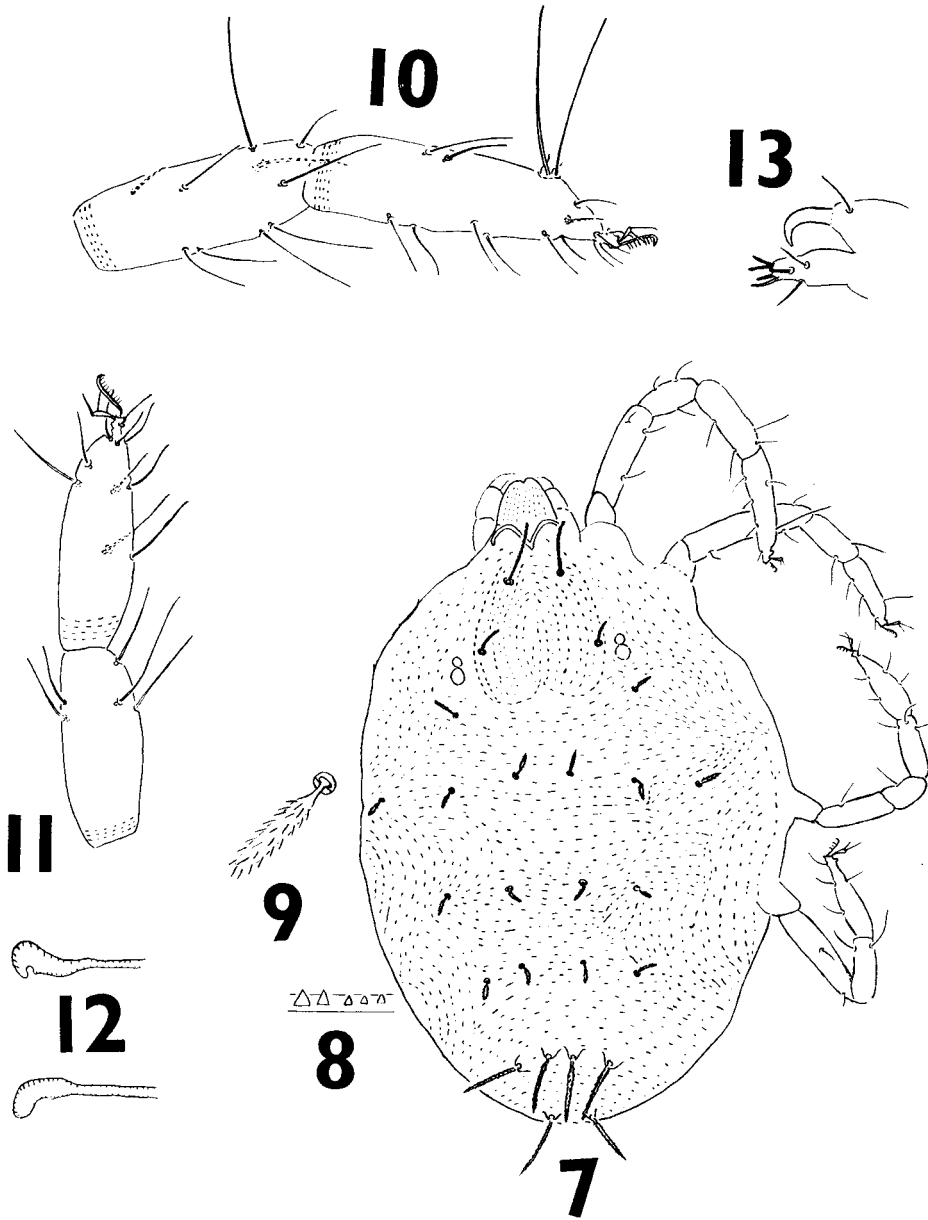
*Holotype.* — Female, on coarse grass, Tunisia, North Africa, 1961; collected by J. W. GENTRY. U.S. National Museum No. 2911.

*Paratypes.* — Eleven females with same data as holotype.



PL. I. — *Petrobia tunisiae* n. sp.

FIG. 1. Dorsal view of body. — FIG. 2. Details of body striae. — FIG. 3. Typical dorsal body seta. — FIG. 4. Tarsus and tibia leg I. — FIG. 5. Tarsus and tibia leg II. — FIG. 6. Termination of peritreme.



PL. II. — *Petrobia marsai* n. sp.

FIG. 7. Dorsal view of body (slightly distorted due to slide mount). — FIG. 8. Details of body striae. — FIG. 9. Typical dorsal body seta. — FIG. 10. Tarsus and tibia leg I. — FIG. 11. Tarsus and tibia leg II. — FIG. 12. Termination of peritreme. — FIG. 13. Termination of palp tarsus.

**Petrobia marsai** n. sp.

(Figs. 7-13).

The distinctive features of this species are the short dorsal body setae, elongate clunal and sacral setae which are situated on tubercles, and the length of the legs which are somewhat shorter than the body length.

*Female.* — Length of body 567  $\mu$ ; greatest width of body 405  $\mu$ . Dorsal body setae short and strongly pubescent (Fig. 9) with the exception of the anterior dorsal propodosomals, sacrals and clunals, which are distinctly longer, the sacrals and clunals being situated on distinct tubercles. Body surface striate; individual striations as figured (Fig. 8). Peritreme slightly hooked and terminating bluntly. All legs shorter than body length; legs I and IV slightly longer than II and III.

*Male.* — No males were observed.

*Holotype.* — Female, on tall coarse grass, La Marsa, Tunisia, Mar. 8, 1961; collected by J. W. GENTRY. U.S. National Museum No. 2912.

*Paratype.* — One female, with same data as holotype.

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