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A NEW MITE TAKEN WITH RATS IN PUERTO RICO

(ACARINA: DIPLOGYNIIDAE)

BY

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The new species of mite described below was collected during rat ectoparasite surveys made in San Juan, Puerto Rico in connection with studies on the epidemiology of murine typhus fever. These studies were supported in part by Research Grant E-854 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, United States Public Health Service.

In 1950 Trägårdh described the genus Neodiplogynium with one included species N. schubarti. Since this new species has the anal plate separated from the ventral plate it is placed in that genus. However, this new species differs greatly from schubarti in many respects, such as the long peritremes, the shape of the anal plate and the presence of an epigynial plate. Although these characters may well be of generic value, it is not deemed desirable to propose a new genus at this time. This new species is named in honor of Dr. Antonio Valle, Director of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Bergamo, Italy.

Neodiplogynium vallei, new species (Figure 1, A-E).

Female. — Length, 724 μ, width 494 μ. Body oval, shoulders not prominent. Dorsal plate single, armed with long setae along the lateral borders and apparently with two median longitudinal rows of such setae. Sternal plate somewhat quadrangular, the anterior border with a notch and the posterior and lateral borders deeply concave, with three pairs of setae of which the most anterior is very long (Figure 1, D). Metasternal plates not apparent. Lateral plates more or less triangular, ornamented with large pits and with two pairs of setae. Epigynial plate small somewhat triangular, clearly separated from the ventral and lateral plates by sutures. Ventral plate not fused with the anal plate and not reaching the posterior border of the body, with three median pairs of setae. Ventral marginal plates dark, with regularly placed long setae, well separated from both the ventral plate and the anal plate in the posterior region. Anal plate with a large pore and three pairs of setae, not reaching the posterior border of the body. Peritreme

Fig. 1. — *Neodiplogynium vallei*, new species, female.
long, beginning at about the middle of Coxa IV, without a prominent poststigmatic branch, extending to beyond Coxa I and with irregular edges (Figure 1, C).

Epistome triangular, about as long as wide at the base, with prominent teeth and lacking a pattern of lines (Figure 1, B). Chelicera with a long chela, the ends of the digits overlapping. Hypostome as shown in Figure 1, E. Palpus with two long setae on the coxa and a bifurcate forked seta on the tarsus (Figure 1, A). Tarsus I without claws or caruncle, longer than the tibia; tarsi II, III, and IV with claws and caruncles.

Type material. — Described from the female holotype taken at San Juan (Santurce), Puerto Rico, July 12, 1957 together with Rattus norvegicus in a wooden box-type trap. This holotype is in the entomological collection of the Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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