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REDISCOVERY AND REDESCRIPTION OF ACERIA ONYCHIUS (NALEPA, 1915) (ACARI, PROSTIGMATA, ERIOPHYIDAE)

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ACERIA ONYCHIUS
REDESCRIPTION
ERIOPHYIDAE
SOUTHERN FRANCE
PHLOMIS

SUMMARY: Aceria onychius (Nalepa, 1915), known only from the original description and type locality in Dalmatia is redescribed and illustrated from specimens collected in Southern France.

NALEPA (1915) described Eriophyes onychius, an eriophyid mite causing patches of white erinea on leaves of the Jerusalem Sage, Phlomis fruticosa L., Labiatae or Lamiaceae, from Gravosa and Ragusa, in Dalmatia, then Yugoslavia. As far as we are aware this is the only reference to this mite. NALEPA (1915) did not present an illustration of this species.

Recently, we collected specimens of an eriophyid on Phlomis herba-venti L., in southern France, which agrees with NALEPA’s description of *E. onychius*, which is herein redescribed and Fig.d.

**Aceria onychius** (Nalepa, 1915) (Figs. 1, 2)

_Eriophyes onychius_ Nalepa, 1915: 182.

_Aceria onychius_, Amrine & Stasny, 1994: 70, n.comb.

FEMALE. — measurements in micrometers, refer to the length of the structure, unless otherwise stated. (n = 6). Idiosoma vermiform, 233-277 and 61-69 wide, **Gnathosoma**: rostrum 23-25; basal setae 3; antapical setae 5-7; chelicerae 20-23. **Prodorsal shield**: 33-39 long; with small anterior rounded lobe. Median line variable, either extending over entire length of shield (Fig. 1, AD 1) or restricted to posterior half of shield (Fig. 1, AD 2); admedian lines extending over entire shield length; one pair of submedian lines on anterior half of shield, consisting mainly of a continuous line of coarse granules. Shield laterally covered with granules. Prodorsal shield setae (Fig. 1, AD 1, and Fig. 2, AL, sc) 18-22, set on nearly hemisphaeric tubercles, 24-26 apart. **Legs**: legs I (Fig. 2, L1) 34-36, from trochanter basis; femora 8-10, femoral setae (bv) 11-14; genua 5-6, genual setae (f) 25-27; tibiae 6-8,

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Fig. 1: *Aceria onychius* (Nalepa), female.

AD 1: anterior dorsal body region, median line entire; AD 2: id., median line restricted to posterior half of dorsal shield; CAD: caudal area, dorsal; CAV: caudal area, ventral; CGF: coxigenital region; c2: lateral setae; d, e, f: ventral setae 1, 2, 3; sc: scapular setae.
tibial setae (f) 7-9; tarsi 8-10, solenidia 11-12, empodia 7-8, 4-rayed, dorsal setae (ft) 18-21, lateral setae (fr) 26-30, unguinal setae (u') 6. Legs II (Fig. 2, L2) 30-33; femora 8-11, bv 12-14; genua 4-5, r' 10-11; tibiae 4-5, with a distolateral thin spine resembling a minute seta; tarsi 7-9, solenidia 13-15, empodia 7-8, 4-rayed, fr 9-11, fr' 28-31, u' 6-7. Coxae: coxal setae I (1b) 9-11, 13-15 apart; coxal setae II (1a) 19-24, 11-13 apart; coxal setae III (2a) 46-50, 28-31 apart. Coxae I and II with a transverse row of granules and a few scattered granules. Coxisternal area with 7-10 annuli, microtuberculate. Genitalia: 24-28 wide, 17-18 long. Genital cover flap (epigynium) with 16-18 longitudinal scorings. Genital setae (3a) 16-18. Opisthosoma: annuli nearly subequal dorsoventrally, evenly microtuberculate. Microtubercles on dorsal annuli small, on rear margin of annuli; on ventral annuli, small, beadlike, with a strong projection and thin, elongate on last 7-8 ventral annuli. Lateral setae (Fig. 1, CGF, and Fig. 2, AL, c2) 27-29, on annulus 3-4 from posterior margin of genitalia; ventral setae 1 (Fig. 1, d) 54-64, 42-44 apart, on annulus 18-23; ventral setae 2 (Fig. 1, e) 14-19, 23-26 apart, on annulus 39-47; ventral setae 3 (Fig. 1, CAV, f) 19-24, 18-20 apart, on annuli 69-82 or 7th-8th from rear. Total dorsal annuli 70-78; total ventral annuli 75-89. Caudal setae (h2) 62-82; accessory setae (Fig. 2, CAD, h1) 4-5.

MALE. — (n = 2). Smaller than female, 220-228, 60-63 wide. Gnathosoma: basal setae 3; antapical setae 5; chelicerae 18-20. Prodorsal shield 36-39; sc 18, 24-26 apart. Legs: legs I 32-33; femora 11, bv 13; genua 5, r 23-26; tibiae 6, r 6-8; tarsi 7-8, solenidia 12-13, empodia 7, 4-rayed, fr 18-19, fr' 31, u' 5-7. Legs II 28-29; femora 10-11, bv 12; genua 4-5, r' 10-11; tibiae 3-4; tarsi 7-8, solenidia 15, empodia 8, 4-rayed, fr 8-10, fr' 29-30, u' 6-7. Coxae: 1b 8-10, 13 apart; 1a 18, 11 apart; 2a 44, 24-27 apart. Coxisternal region with 6-8 annuli, microtuberculate. Genitalia (Fig. 2, GM) 19 wide, 16 long, caudally densely microtuberculate; 3a 12-14. Opisthosoma: as in female; c2 26-28, on annulus 3; d 53-55, 37-42 apart,
on annulus 15-16; e 12-14, 22-25 apart, on annulus 34; f 26-27, 19-20 apart, on annulus 63-64 or 6th-7th from rear. Total dorsal annuli 71-75; total ventral annuli 69-70. Caudal setae (h2) 66-67; h1 4.

**Material Examined.** — 9 females, 2 males, from *Phlomis herba-venti* L. (Labiatae or Lamiaeae), Pic Saint-Loup, Hérault, France, collected by P. Auger, May 2000. On 4 microscopic preparations; 1 preparation in ENSAM/INRA, Département de Santé des Plantes et Environnement, Laboratoire d'Acarologie, Montpellier, France; 3 preparations in the collection of Departamento de Entomologia, Fitopatologia e Zoologia Agricola, ESALQ, Universidade de São Paulo, Piracicaba, SP, Brasil. Leaf vagrants, sparse erineum patches.

**Remarks.** — The long tarsal solenidia, a third as long as leg on leg I and half as long as leg on leg II, is an outstanding characteristic of this species, from which *Nalepa* derived the specific designation *onychius* (Greek, *onyx*, *onychos*, meaning claw, talon or nail).

**References**
