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**PERSUCTOBELBA GEN. N., WITH TWO NEW SPECIES FROM MADAGASCAR (ACARI, ORIBATIDA: SUCTOBELBIDAE)**

**BY S. MAHUNKA***

**ORIBATIDA**

**SUCTOBELBIDAE**

**NEW TAXA**

**MADAGASCAR**

**ORIBATES**

**SUCTOBELBIDAE**

**TAXONS NOUVEAUX**

**MADAGASCAR**

**SUMMARY:** Two new suctobelboid oribatid species are described from Madagascar. Both belong to a new genus (*Persuctobelba* gen. n.) which is characterised by thirteen pairs of notogastral setae, a unique character in the family of Suctobelbidae Jacot, 1938.

**INTRODUCTION**

For quite some time I have been making research into the oribatids of Madagascar (Malagasy Republic) (e.g. MAHUNKA, 1996). During his recent expedition, my friend, Prof. Dr Tamás Pócs, collected, and extracted on the spot, new material to enable further study. The results of my research are published in parts. Here I describe two new suctobelboid oribatids belonging to a new genus, *Persuctobelba* gen. n., in the family Suctobelbidae Jacot, 1938.

In the descriptions and terminology I follow those of my previous papers (e.g. MAHUNKA, 1997).

**Persuctobelba gen. n.**

**DIAGNOSIS:** Family Suctobelbidae Jacot, 1938. Rostral region strongly divided by deep incisions, with long or large teeth. Median rostral apex roundish. Rostral setae simply bent inwards. Tectopedial field and lamellar knob clearly developed. Dorsosejugal margin of the notogaster with two pairs of apophysae, notogastral surface smooth. Thirteen pairs of long flagellate notogastral setae present. Epimeral setal formula: 3 – 1 – 3 – 3. Anogenital setal formula: 5 – 1 – 2 – 3. Setae *ad*, in postanal position. No tubercles or teeth on the posterior margin of epimeral border 5. Other features (gnathosoma, legs) are the same as in the type genus of the family.

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Persuctobelba divisa* sp. n.

**REMARKS:** The composition of the family was formed by the erection of HAMMER's taxa (e.g. HAMMER, 1966, 1977) as shown in BALOGH & BALOGH, 1992. On the other hand, WOAS (1986), following another generic conception rejected this view, and considered all supraspecific taxa to belong into a single genus. Although I am not fully convinced about the validity of all the so far described taxa, the best part is accepted as such. The hereunder describing new species of the established new genus is unique in the family Suctobelbidae, they are the first taxa bearing 13 pairs of notogastral setae. Some of the other features e.g. the number of the genital setae,
the form of the rostrum, the form of the epimeral borders, etc. as character combination is also conspicuous.

ETYMOLOGY: Named after the neotrichy in the notogastral setae.

**Persuctobelba divisa** sp. n

**Measurements.**—Length of body: 275 µm, width of body: 146 µm.

**Prodorsum:** Rostral region strongly divided by long, narrow teeth by deep incisions (Fig. 2), median rostral apex roundish. Lateral teeth are long, so the rostrum seems to be very wide. Behind rostrum one pair of longitudinal laths are present, some small tubercles on and behind them. Their apical part bearing simple rostral setae. They are well ciliated and bent inwards. Shape of the tectopedial fields conspicuous, located in the posterior part of the prodorsum, their medial surface with polygonal pattern (Fig. 1). Between them a well developed lamellar knob present, emitting very long lamellar setae. A pair of well sclerotised costulae present in the interbothridial region, from the bothridia transversal lath directed them. Bothridia large, also well sclerotised, with a relatively small, roundish basal apophysis. Sensillus long (Fig. 4), its median part asymmetrically incrassate, distal part setiform. Excepting its basal part unilaterally ciliate. Interlamellar and exobothridial setae are simple and also comparatively long.

**Notogaster:** Elongated. Dorsosejugal margin with two pairs of apophyses, lateral pair much larger than the median ones. Thirteen pairs of notogastral setae present, ten pairs very long, nearly S-shaped, setae p of the same size, but slightly shorter than the preceding ones (Fig. 1). All setae finely roughened.

**Lateral part of podosoma:** Acetabula I–IV normal, lying on the same level (Fig. 4). Exobothridial and acetabular region well sclerotised, partly granulated. Pedotecta I very small, pedotecta II–III reduced, discidium with protuberances. **Ventral parts:** Median part of the mental tectum protruding anteriorly, excised medially. Epimeral borders and apodeme normally developed, a wide sternal field present between the epimeral plates medially. Epimeres IV normal in shape, without serrated posterior border (Fig. 3). Epimeral setal formula: 3 – 1 – 3 – 3. Setae 1c located laterally, on the surface of pedotecta I. Setae 4c arising on basal part of discidium. Epimeral setae of normal size, setae 3c clearly ciliate, all others seem to be smooth. Setae 4a and 4b located conspicuously near to each other. Genital opening much smaller than the anal one. Anogenital setal formula: 5 – 1 – 2(1) – 3. Anterior pairs of genital setae nearly as long as the others. Position of aegginal setae normal, setae ad1 in postanal position. All setae in this region mostly smooth.

Chelicera and palps conspicuously narrow and long.

**Legs:** Form and chaetotaxy of legs I and IV typical for the family.

**Material examined:** Holotype: Malagasy Republic, Toamasina Province. Manamiza forest. Mossy montane rainforest with bamboo (*Nastus* sp.) undergrowth on the summit ridge of Mt. Manamiza, south of the Andasibe Nat. Park and the Antananarivo Toamasina road, 2 km W of Anevoka village, at 1080–1214 m alt. 18°57.8'S, 48°27.5'E. Date: 26 August 1998. Leg. T. Pócs, No. 9890, 1 paratype: from the same sample, 1 paratype: Toamasina Prov. Mananara Nord Biosphere Reserve and National Park. Lowland rainforest on the NW slope of Behafotra Hill, at 250–300 m alt., with 3500 mm annual rainfall. 16°27.1–3’S, 49°47.6. Date: 14–15 August 1998. Leg. T. Pócs, No. 9877. Holotype: (1629–HO–99) and 2 paratypes (1629–PO–99) deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM), Budapest, with identification number of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnoidea.

**Remarks:** The new species is well distinguishable from all related taxa by the unique structure of the rostrum.

**Etymology:** Named after the divided form of the rostrum.
FIGS 1-4. Persuctobelba divisa gen. n., sp. n. — 1. body in dorsal view, 2. rostrum, 3: body in ventral view, 4. body in lateral view
Figs. 5–8. *Persuctobelba monster* sp. n. — 5. body in dorsal view, 6. body in ventral view, 7. body in lateral view, 8. part of prodorsum.
**Persuctobelba monster** sp. n.

**MEASUREMENTS.** — Length of body: 259–268 μm, width of body: 140–152 μm.

**PRODORSUM:** Rostrum rounded, behind it with three pairs of very large teeth laterally, the posterior ones much larger than the anterior ones (Fig. 8). Rostral surface well granulated, a pair of longitudinal laths are also present. Their apical part bearing simple rostral setae. They are well ciliated and bent inwards. Tectopedial field large, between them a conspicuous polygonal pattern observable. Lamellar knob well developed, confluent behind with a pair of well sclerotised costulae (Fig. 5). Bothridia large, also well sclerotised with large basal tubercles. Sensillus similar to the preceding species, long (Fig. 8), its median part asymmetrically incrassate, distal part ciliate. Excepting its basal part unilaterally ciliate. Interlamellar and exobothridial setae are simple and also comparatively long.

**NOTOGASTER:** Elongated. Dorsosejugal margin with two pairs of apophyses, median pair well separated round, lateral pair larger than the median ones. Thirteen pairs of notogastral setae present, ten pairs very long, nearly S-shaped, setae p of the same size, but slightly shorter than the preceding ones. All setae finely roughened.

**LATERAL PART OF PODOSOMA:** Acetabula I–IV normal, lying on the same level (Fig. 8). Exobothridial and acetabular region well sclerotised, partly granulated. Pedotecta I comparatively large, pedotecta II–III reduced, discidium with a triangular posterior corner.

**VENTRAL PARTS:** Very similar to the preceding species. Median part of the mental tectum protruding anteriorly, but not excised medially. A long rib running posteriorly from it. Epimeral borders and epodeme normally developed, a wide sternal field present between the epimeral plates medially. Epimeral surface with irregular polygonal pattern. Epimeres IV normal in shape, without serrated posterior border (Fig. 6). Epimeral setal formula: 3–1–3–3. Setae 1c located laterally on the surface of pedotecta I. Setae 4c arising on basal part of discidium. Epimeral setae of normal size, all setae ciliately. Anogenital setal formula: 5–1–2–3. Position of aggenital setae normal, setae ad in postanal position. All setae in this region ciliate.

**LEGS:** Form and chaetotaxy of legs I and IV typical for the family.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** Holotype: Malagasy Republic, Antananarivo Prov. Angavo Escarpment. Old *Eucalyptus* plantation replacing montane rainforest at the S side of main road between Ambatolaona and Mandraka 40 km E from the capital, at 1350–1400 m alt. 18°54.3–9S, 47°53.6–7'E. 27 August 1998. Leg. T. Pócs. No. 9891, 1 paratype: from the same sample. Holotype (1630–HO–99) and paratype (1630–PO–99) deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM), Budapest, with identification number of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnoida.

**REMARKS:** The new species is well distinguishable from all related taxa by the unique structure of the rostrum.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named after the unique form of the rostrum.

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