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A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS SCUTACARUS
(ACARINA : SCUTACARIDAE) IN EGYPT

BY

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INTRODUCTION

Members of the genus Scutacarus can be considered as ground mites as they are generally found inhabiting soil, litter, moss and some vegetations. Several species are described by Mahunka from Australia, Korea, and India (1967, 1971 a, 1971 b).

The present species was collected during a survey of social insect mites, where it, was found associated with the nest of Cataglyphus bicolor.

Scutacarus aegypticus n. sp.

Diagnosis: This species can be distinguished by having tibiotarsus I terminates in a stout claw and bears solenidion w₁ rod like; Tibiotarsus IV terminates in two apical long pilose setae, two subapicals, of which one seems to be short, another long setae arise basally. Dorsal setae cylindrical of which dorsal setae II and dorsal setae III, feathered and arise on distinct tubercules.

Female: Body oval, (Fig. 1 A), colour orange, yellowish or reddish when alive. The first hysterosomal tergum (clypeus) large and equals about half the body, with an extremely wide anterior margin which seems to be radially striated with two pairs of cylindrical, subequal setae, which arise on distinct tubercles, including the internal pseudostigmatatal setae found anterior to the external pseudostigmatal, with a punctate band posteriorly; pseudostigmatic organ with subcircular head and short pedicel. The second tergum bears a pair of cylindrical dorsal setae I slightly shorter than the internal pseudostigmatatal setae, and outlined posteriorly by faint punctate band in which a pair of sinuate fissures found. The third tergum bears a cylindrical setae II, serrate and arise on obvious tubercles, lateral cylindrical setae II originate anteriorly, but shorter than dorsal seta II; with a narrow and lightly punctate band situated posteriorly. Tergum IV bears a pair of dorsal setae III, cylindrical, serrate and born on distinct tubercles; a short lateral setae III. Tergum V which seems to be vestigial and displaced ventrally, bears two pairs of simple, subequal internal and external caudals.

Ventrally (Fig. 1 B) the sclerotized pentagonal circumgnathosomal foramen protrudes slightly outside the dorsal shield. Apodemes I well developed, distally contact with the posterior end of the circumgnathosomal foramen to form a y-shaped sclerotized collar which posteriorly

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A, Dorsal aspect of female
B, Ventral aspect of female
C-D-E-F, Legs 1-4 respectively.

contact the distal parts of the anterior median apodeme. Apodemes II distally contact with
the anteroventral sternocoxal condyles of coxae II and reaches the posterior third of the anterior
median apodeme; the latter apodeme have the small posterior furcate branches and contact
the posterior marginal apodeme, which extends anteriorly to contact the posterior margin of
coxae II, and join apodemes II by a faint oblique secondary apodeme. Apodemes III extend
from the anteroventral sternocoxal condyle of coxae III to reach the posterior marginal apodeme.
Apodemes IV and V incomplete and seem to be developed towards mesiad to join the posterior
median apodeme. Ventrite I with a pair of simple internal ventral setae I just behind lateral
parts of apodeme I; ventrites II bear a pair of simple internal ventral setae II which nearly
equals the former. The internal and external pre sternals simple, subequal and situated anterio­
lateral to the posterior median apodeme. The first axillary setae shorter than the previous
ones and located posterior-lateral to the external pre sternal setae. The second axillary setae
arise anterior to coxae IV, and nearly equals the external pre sternals. The internal post sternals
short and equals the first axillary, while the external post sternals very long and more than three
times as long as the internal post sternals. Opisthosoma large and about as half as the body
length; genital area exists behind the posterior median apodeme, with the anterior genital sclerite
in shape of transverse line, evaginated anterio-mesiad, the elongate median genital sclerite,
and the flap-shaped posterior genital sclerite.
Legs: The leg segments with the following setal formula (Fig. 1 C, D, E, and F): Coxa (0-0-1-1), trochanter (3-2-2-0) femur (3-1-4-1). Tibiotarsus I bears eight setae, of which one arises on a distinct tubercle, single cylindrical solenidion, and terminates in a single stout claw with a short pedicel. Tibia II and III bears 3 and 1 setae, respectively. Tarsus II with two setae and two solenidia, tarsus III with 4 setae and a single solenidion, each of tarsus II and III terminate in two ambulacral claws in addition to an obvious pulvillus; but tibiaotarsus IV lacks such ambulacra and terminate in 7 whiplike setae six of which pilose. Body length 251.2 µ, width 183.8 µ.

Male: Body elongate oval (Fig. 2 A), colour yellowgreenish or orange when alive. Gna-thosoma minute quadrate, with distinct palps. Dorsum of propodosoma with three pairs of pilose setae, the pseudostigmatal setae situated anteriorly, and seem to be the shortest, the internal pseudostigmatal setae which located just behind the anterior and shorter than the external pseudostigmatal. Hysterosoma, separated from propodosoma by a distinct conjunctiva. Tergum I and II fused and bearing three pairs of setae including a pair of short dorsal setae I which nearly equals internal pseudostigmatalts a pair of lateral setae I, and a pair of lateral setae II, the latter two pairs of setae (lateral setae I and II) subequal, and nearly equal the external pseudostigmatalts Tergum III separated from the previous one by a suture and bears two pairs of pilose setae including a pair of dorsal setae III that equals the internal pseudostigmatalts and a short pair of lateral setae III. The cone — shaped genital capsule which seems to be consisted

Fig. 2. — Scutacarus egypticus n. sp.
A, Dorsal aspect of male
B, Ventral aspect of male
C-D-E, and F, Legs I-IV, respectively.
of a complex of tergum IV, segment V and opisthosomal venter, bears a pair of pilose dorsal setae IV that equales the pseudostigmatals, a pair of terminal spicules which arise on tubercles and may represent the external caudals of female, with a stout and blunted aedeagus.

Ventrally (Fig. 2 B) apodemes I transverse, weak; apodemes II distinct, arcuate, oblique and hardly approaching the obvious anterior median apodeme; posterior marginal apodeme distinct, united with the posterior end of the anterior median apodeme. Apodemes IV distinct but interrupted mesaid and extends anteriorly to meet the anterior end of the posterior median apodeme; the latter apodeme branches posteriorly into two distinct arms. Ventrite I with a pair of internal ventral setae I, anterio latered to the anterior median apodeme; ventrite II wider than the first and bears a pair of long internal ventral setae II and rather short than external ventral setae II. Metapodesoma with 4 pairs of simple setae including a pair of internal presternal setae, a pair of external presternal setae, anterior to apodeme IV, a pair of internal poststernals, and a pair of axillary setae. Opisthosomal venter with a pair of rather long, simple setae.

**Legs:** The leg segments with the following setal formula (Fig. 2 C, D, E and F): — Coxae (1-1-2-o), trochanter (3-3-0-2), femur genu I and II (3-2), femur III and IV (2-0), genu III and IV (2-0), tibia (5-3-5-4), each of genu and tibia IV bears a spur, tarsi (9-4-6-3). Tarsus I with a long anterior and short posterior solenidia, and terminates in a weak claw; with a distinct pedical, tarsus II with long solenidion, tarsi II and III each terminate in two ambulacral claws, in addition to an obvious pulvillus; but tarsus IV lacks such ambulacra but terminate in two whiplike and pilose setae in addition to a lateral spur.

Body length 270.0 µ long, 121.3 µ wide.

**Holotype:** female found on the thorax of Cataglyphus bicolar at el Hawamdia district, Giza governorate.

**Paratypes:** Four females were collected from thoracic segments of the same host and locality of the holotype.

**Allotype:** Male collected from the same host and locality of the holotype.

**REFERENCE**

