

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF MITE
IN THE FAMILY DIGAMASELLIDAE EVANS (ACARINA)

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ABSTRACT.

A new genus and species of Digamasellidae, *Longoseius cuniculus* sp. n., collected in the galleries of a wood boring cerambycid in eastern North America, is described and figured.

Longoseius Gen. Nov.

Female. — Mesostigmatid mites of the family Digamasellidae Evans, 1957. Idiosoma very long, narrow, and with two dorsal shields, both weakly sclerotized and with a reduced number of setae. Marginal series of setae almost absent. Ventral sclerotization weak, endopodal and exopodal plates absent. Sternal shield long, narrow. Metasternal shields absent. Genital shield narrow, with genital setae. Ventrianal shield reduced, without preanal setae. Peritreme conspicuous, extending slightly beyond anterior edge of coxa II. Coxal glands not apparent. Corniculi short, curved, normal for family. Denticules on hypostome. poorly sclerotized. Rostral setae normal. Specialized seta on palp two tined. Chelicera with few teeth. Legs short, with minute setae. All legs with pretarsi and claws. Legs I and II forward directed. Coxae broad, flat.

Male. — Unknown.

Type Species. — *Longoseius cuniculus* sp. n.

Longoseius cuniculus sp. n.

(Figs. 1-4).

Female. — Length from anterior edge of anterior dorsal shield to posterior edge of posterior shield 490 μ . Length of posterior shield 210 μ . Width at level

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of coxa II 95 μ . Body very long and narrow, poorly sclerotized. Anterior dorsal shield with 12 pairs of simple setae, posterior shield with 14 pairs of simple setae, all short (fig. 1). Only four pairs of marginal setae on lateral integument, one in region of anterior shield. Body constricted where the two dorsal shields meet.

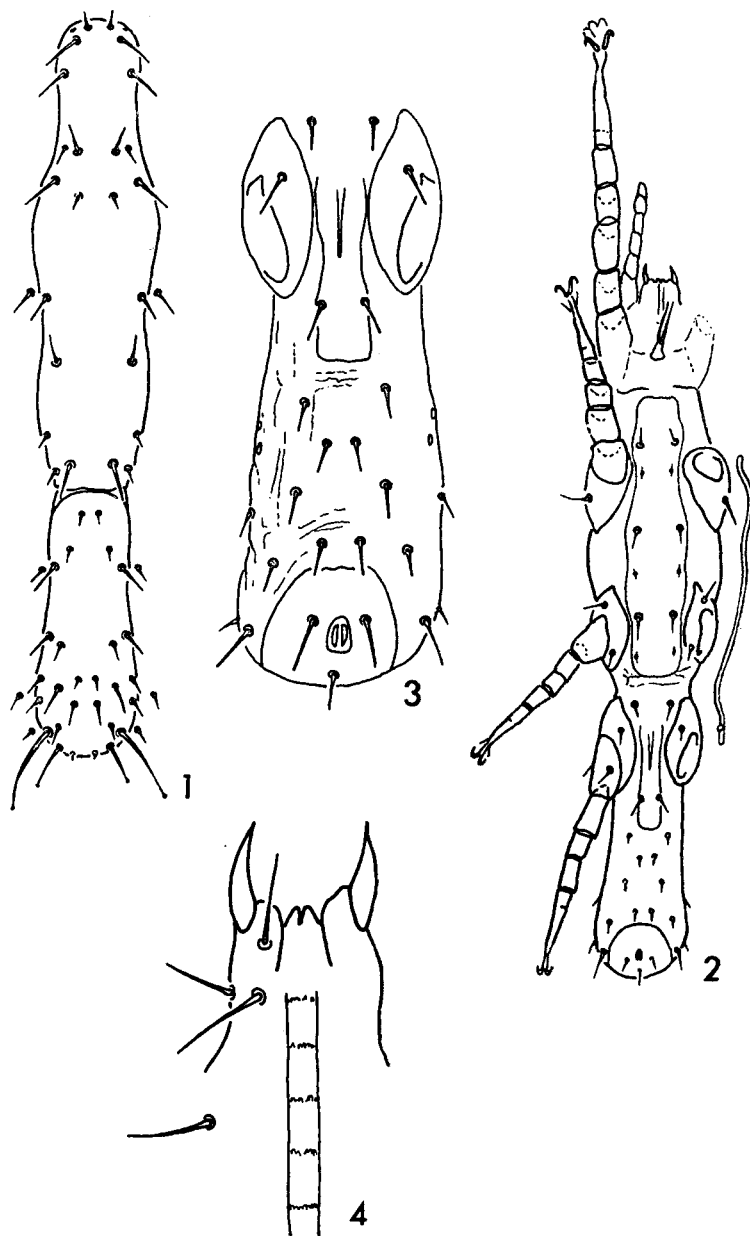


FIG. 1-4. *Longoseius cuniculus* sp. n. FIG. 1. Dorsal surface. — FIG. 2. Ventral surface. FIG. 3. Posterior ventral surface. — FIG. 4. Hypostome.

Sternal shield long, narrow, not fused with endopodal plates, and with three pairs of setae and three pairs of minute pores (fig. 2). Metasternal setae free on integument. Genital shield long, narrow, with genital setae. Ventrianal shield reduced, without preanal setae (fig. 3). Anal opening small. Six pairs of setae on integument around ventrianal shield. Two pairs of circular, minute, metapodal plates. Peritreme extending slightly anterior of coxa II. Coxal glands not apparent. Tectum smooth. Corniculi (fig. 4) short, curved. Rostral setae short, smooth. About five rows of denticules on hypostome, poorly sclerotized. Palps normal for family. Fixed digit of chelicera with four teeth; movable digit with two or three teeth. All coxae broad, flattened. Legs short, with short setae. Femur and genu IV and genu I each with a longer seta. Legs I and II forward directed.

Male. — Unknown.

Remarks. — This species has obvious similarities with those of the family Rhodacaridae but by virtue of the specialized seta on the palp and other features described above properly belongs in the Digamasellidae as defined by EVANS (1957). Its extraordinary length and reduced chaetotaxy on the dorsal shields are unlike those of other Digamasellidae and prompted the erection of a new genus.

Locality. — The holotype and nine other females were collected in the galleries of the sawyer, *Monochamus notatus* Drury (Coleoptera : Cerambycidae), on pine, Orono, Maine, on July 20, 1959, by Mr. R. S. SOPER, Jr. The holotype is in the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., and additional specimens are in the Canadian National Collection at the Research Laboratory, Vineland Station, Ontario.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

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REFERENCES

- EVANS (G. O.), 1957. — An introduction to the British Mesostigmata (Acarina) with keys to families and genera. *J. Linnean Soc. Zool.* 43 (No. 291) : 203-259.
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