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ORIBATIDS FROM HONG KONG II
(ACARI: ORIBATIDA: EUPHTHIRACARIDAE)
(ACAROLOGICA GENAVENSIA XCIV)

BY

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ABSTRACT

Oribatids from Hong Kong II (Acari: Oribatida, Euphthiracaridae). (*Acarologica Genavensia* XCIV). - Two new oribatid species (*Euphthiracarus cathayanus* sp. n. and *Rhysotritia corletti* sp. n.) are described from the Tai Mo Shan Country Park (New Territories).

Key-words: Acari, Oribatida, Euphthiracaridae, New species, Hong Kong.

INTRODUCTION

The geographical location of Hong Kong (China) might surrender important data to zoogeographical investigations. Theoretically the area belongs to the Palaearctic. However, this unanimous designation poses questions in various species, which is especially true in the case of soil mites. Dr. B. Hauser (the retired curator of the Arthropod Department of the Museum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva) had given a great deal of attention to investigations in these parts of the world. These researches are especially important for us, since they provide information to research programmes aiming to clarify the connections between the Far East (Oriental Region) and Africa. This research programme was partly sponsored by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA 16729).

In one of my earlier papers I discussed Oribatids from Hong Kong (MAHUNKA 1976): some faunistical data and a few taxonomic novelties are given there. The present contribution gives the descriptions of two new ptychoid species belonging to the family Euphthiracaridae.

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DESCRIPTIONS

Euphthiracaridae Jacot, 1930

***Euphthiracarus cathayanus* sp. n.**

(Figs 1-8)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Holotype: CHINE: Hong Kong: New Territories, Tai Mo Shan Country Park, bosquet de *Persea* sp. près de la route, prélèvement de sol, 750m; 9.XII.1996; leg. B. Hauser (extraction par appareil Berlese à Genève, Suisse) (SBH-96/19); 2 paratypes: from the same sample. Holotype and 1 paratype: MHNG², 1 paratype (1619-PO-98): HNHM³.

M e a s u r e m e n t s . - Length of aspis: 173-184 µm, length of notogaster: 300-326 µm, height of notogaster: 214-230 µm.

B o d y s u r f a c e : Mostly covered by cerotegument granules, the cuticle ornamented by large alveoli, the granules not imitating the sculpture of the cuticle.

A s p i s : Its outline convex posteriorly, flat or slightly concave anteriorly (Fig. 1), rostral apex rounded. Two pairs of lateral carinae present, the upper one thicker than the lower one, they are connected with the well developed lateral rim. Bothridial squama very large, situated below the bothridium. Prodorsal cuticle mostly alveolate, between the lateral carinae and the lateral margin smooth. Four pairs of prodorsal setae which, except for the minute *exa*, are distinctly spinose on their distal end. Interlamellar setae (Fig. 4) wider and longer than the remaining ones, much more spinose than the others, no great differences between setae *le* and *ro* (Fig. 3) Sensilli (Fig. 2) conspicuously long, curved, with gradually longer branches to the distal end on each side. Branches blunt at tip.

N o t o g a s t e r (Fig. 1): Long terminal fissure (Fig. 7). On the dorsal surface large alveoli present, they are elongate in the anteromarginal position, largest and round laterally, smaller, and also rounded on the dorsal part of body. Lateroventral margin characteristically lineate. All notogastral setae distinctly spinose on their distal part. Setae *c* standing conspicuously far from the anterior margin. All setae nearly equal in length. Four pairs of conspicuous lyrifissures.

A n o g e n i t a l r e g i o n (Fig. 8): Median triangle large, posterior one minute, hardly discernible. Nine pairs of genital, two pairs of aggenital, three pairs of anal and three pairs of adanal setae present.

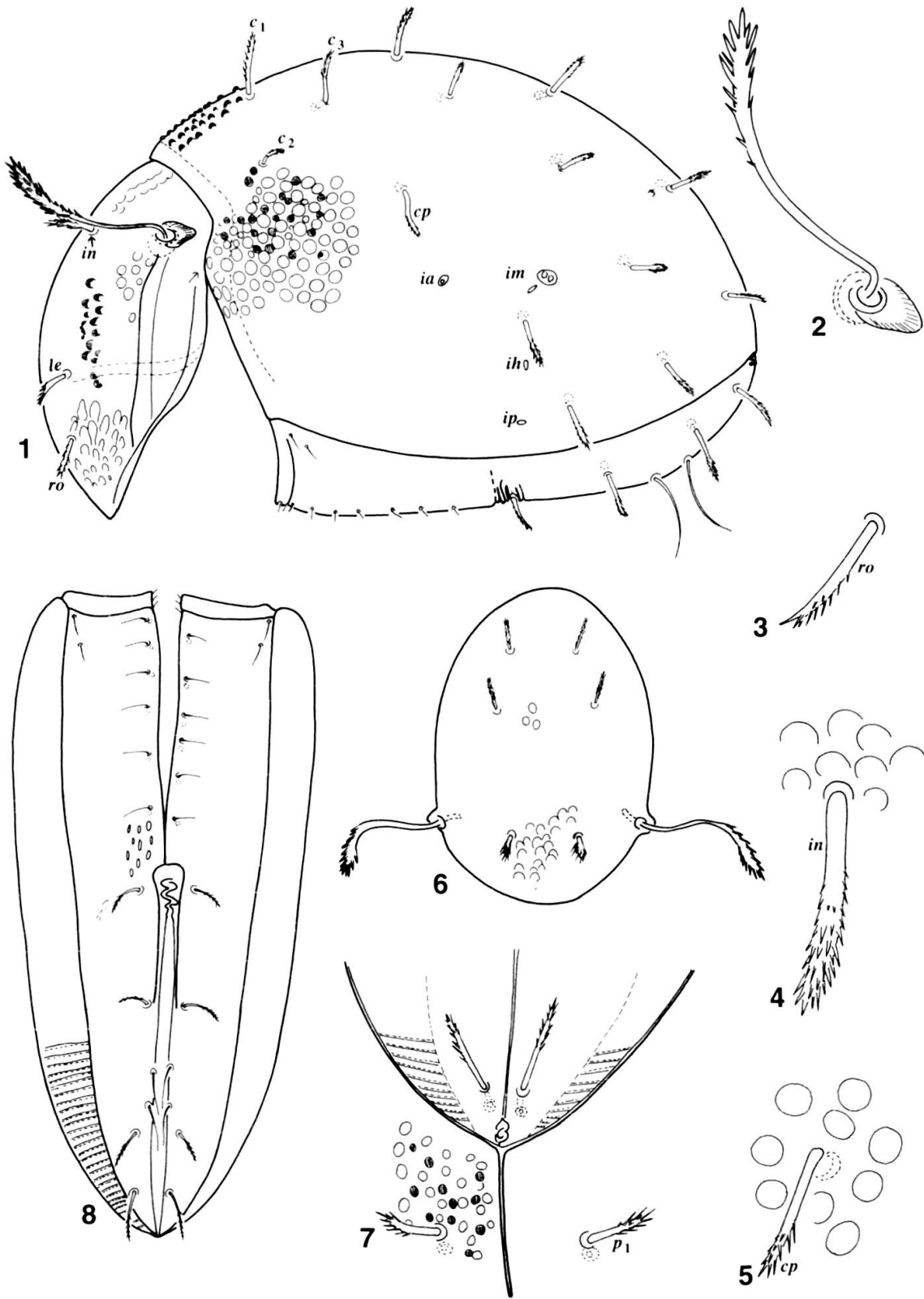
L e g s : Legs monodactylous. Claws well developed. Leg setal formulae are typical for the genus, trochanters III and IV bearing 2 setae each, genu of leg IV with one solenidion and one seta.

R e m a r k s : The sculpture of the body is unique in the genus *Euphthiracarus* Ewing, 1917.

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : Named after China as referred to in the Middle Ages.

² MHNG = deposited in the Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva.

³ HNHM = deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, with identification number of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnida.



FIGS 1-8.

Euphthiracarus cathayanus sp. n. - 1: body in lateral view, 2: sensillus, 3: seta ro , 4: seta in , 5: seta cp , 6: aspis in dorsal view, 7: terminal fissure, 8: anogenital region.

Rhysotritia corletti sp. n.

(Figs 9-15)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Holotype: CHINE: Hong Kong: New Territories, Tai Mo Shan Country Park, bosquet de *Persea* sp. près de la route, prélèvement de sol, 750m; 9.XII.1996; leg. B. Hauser (extraction par appareil Berlese à Genève, Suisse) (SBH-96/19); 1 paratype: from the same sample. Holotype: MHNG, paratype (1620-PO-98): HNHM.

M e a s u r e m e n t s . - Length of aspis: 260-271 μm , length of notogaster: 524-550 μm , height of notogaster: 360-366 μm .

A s p i s : Outline of the rostral part very steeply bending downwards and this part strongly narrowed in lateral view (Fig. 12), flat or slightly concave at the dorsal part. One very strong lateral carina running anteriorly and touching the well developed lateral rim only in the rostral region. Bothridial squama large, waved on its free margin, situated above the bothridium. Prodorsal cuticle smooth. Four pairs of prodorsal setae which, except for the minute *exa*, are distinctly spinose on their distal end. Interlamellar setae much longer than the remaining ones. Pedicel of the sensilli conspicuously long, curved, with a small head bearing long branches distally (Fig. 10). Branches blunt at tip.

N o t o g a s t e r (Fig. 9): Long terminal fissure present (Fig. 14). Dorsal surface finely punctate. All notogastral setae bacilliform, distinctly spinose distally. Setae c_1 (Fig. 11), c_2 and c_3 stand conspicuously near to each other. All setae nearly equal in length. Four pairs of conspicuous lyrifissures.

A n o g e n i t a l r e g i o n (Fig. 15): Median triangle large. Nine pairs of genital, two pairs of aggenital, three pairs of anal and three pairs of adanal setae present. The surface of the anogenital region distinctly punctate.

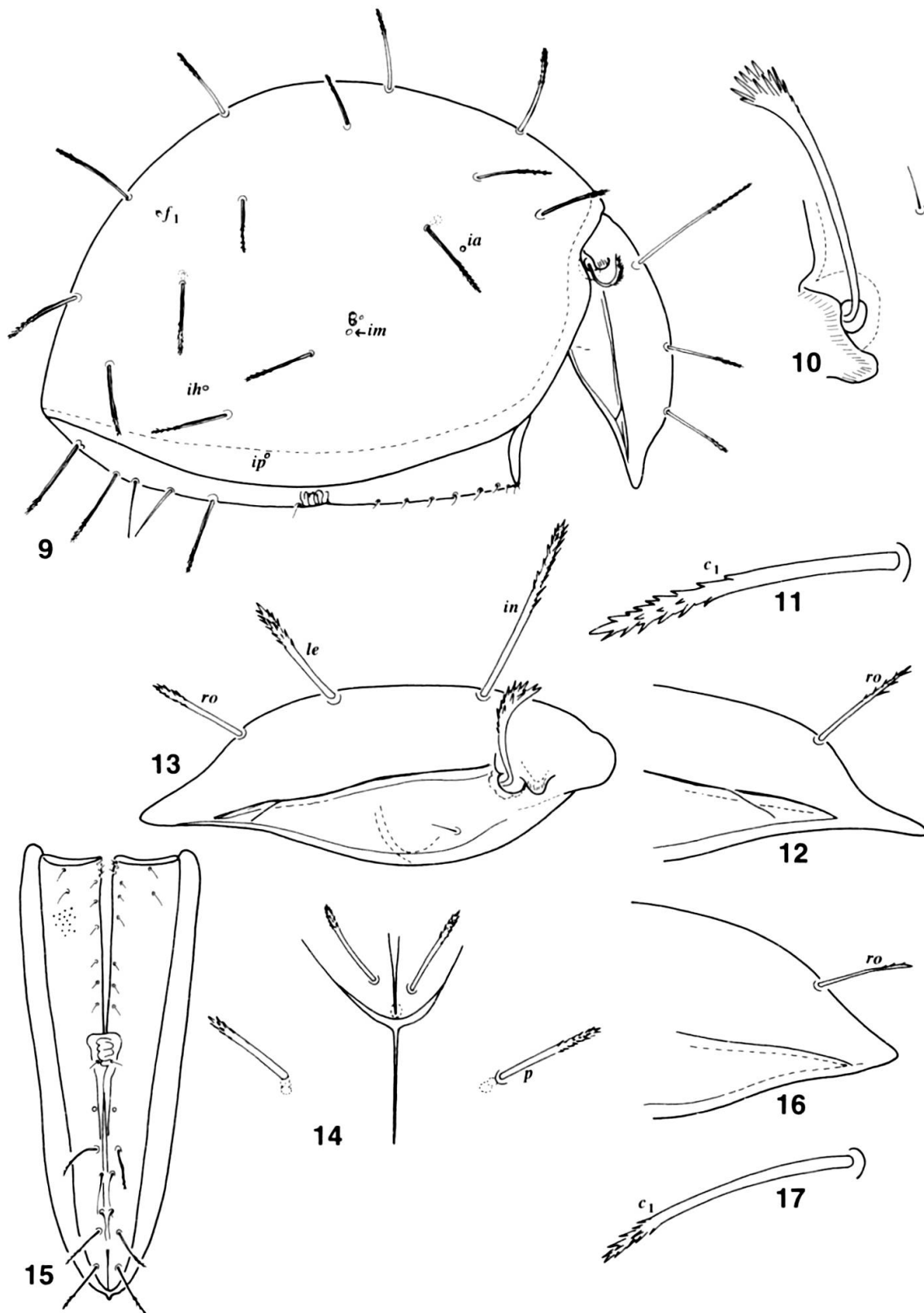
L e g s : Legs tridactylous, median claws much thicker than the lateral ones. Leg setal formulae are typical for the genus.

R e m a r k s : The new species is readily distinguished by the form of the aspis in lateral view and the conspicuously long pedicel of the sensilli. On this basis the new species stands nearest to *Rhysotritia hauseri* described by MAHUNKA (1991) from the Malayan Peninsula (Pahang). However, the outline of the rostral part is much steeper in the new species than in *R. hauseri*, the lateral keel in the new species is divided anteriorly and all prodorsal and notogastral setae are much thinner and less robust in the new species than in *R. hauseri* (Figs 16, 17).

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : I dedicate the new species to Dr. C. Corlett, Professor of Botany at The University of Hong Kong, for his kind assistance in collecting the material.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. B. Hauser for giving me the opportunity to study this interesting material. I am also very grateful to Dr. Malcolm Luxton (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) for his careful reading of the manuscript and his comments.



FIGS 9-17.

Rhysotritia corletti sp. n. - 9: body in lateral view, 10: sensillus, 11: setae c_1 , 12: apex of the aspis in lateral view, 13: aspis in lateral view, 14: terminal fissure, 15: anogenital region.
Rhysotritia hauseri Mahunka, 1991 - 16: apex of aspis in lateral view, 17: setae c_1 .

RÉSUMÉ

ORIBATES DE HONG KONG II (ACARI: ORIBATIDA, EUPHTHIRACAROIDEA)
(ACAROLOGICA GENAVENSIA XCIV)

Le travail contient la description de deux espèces nouvelles du Parc naturel régional Tai Mo Shan Country Park (New Territories): *Euphthiracarus cathayanus* sp. n. et *Rhysotritia corletti* sp. n.

Mots-clés: Acariens, Oribates, Euphthiracaridae, taxonomie, nouvelles espèces, Hong Kong.

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