

LARINYSSUS STERNA  
 sp. n. (ACARINA : SARCOPTIFORMES)  
 FROM THE SOOTY TERN  
 (STERNA FUSCATA FUSCATA L.)

by A. FAIN<sup>(1)</sup> and M.L.G. HOLLAND<sup>(2)</sup>

The new species that is described here has been collected by the junior author in the nasal cavities of a Sooty Tern, in Venezuela. This bird harboured also several specimens of another nasal mite : *Sternostoma boydi* STRANDTMANN.

So far two valid species have been described in the genus *Larinyssus* : *L. orbicularis* STRANDTMANN, 1948, the type species, from *Sterna maxima* (Laridae) and *L. benoiti* FAIN, 1961, from *Galachrysia cinerea* (Glareolidae).

*Larinyssus sterna* sp. n. is distinguished from *Larinyssus orbicularis* by the absence of the sternal and the pygidial shields, the more numerous setae on the venter (7 pairs, instead of 3 pairs in *L. orbicularis*), the broader shape of the anal shield, the more terminal position of the gnathosoma, the stronger development and the different shape, relatively much wider, of the movable cheliceral digit which bears a stronger tooth.

It is separated from *Larinyssus benoiti* by the following characters : other disposition of the hypostomal setae (in *L. benoiti* these setae are situated in a longitudinal row), the movable cheliceral digit is relatively much wider and bears a stronger tooth, the presence of only 7 pairs of setae on venter, the relatively smaller length of the palp, the more narrow shape of the genital shield, the ventroterminal situation of the anus and the presence of an anal shield and of a cribrum (in *L. benoiti* the anus is terminal and there is no anal shield nor cribrum).

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## FAMILY RHINONYSSIDAE TROU ESSART, 1895

1. *Larinyssus sterna* spec. nov.

FEMALE (holotype) (fig. 1-3): The holotype is strongly flattened. LI<sub>d</sub> 930  $\mu$ ; WI<sub>d</sub> 690  $\mu$ ; LGP 165  $\mu$ ; WGP 60  $\mu$ ;

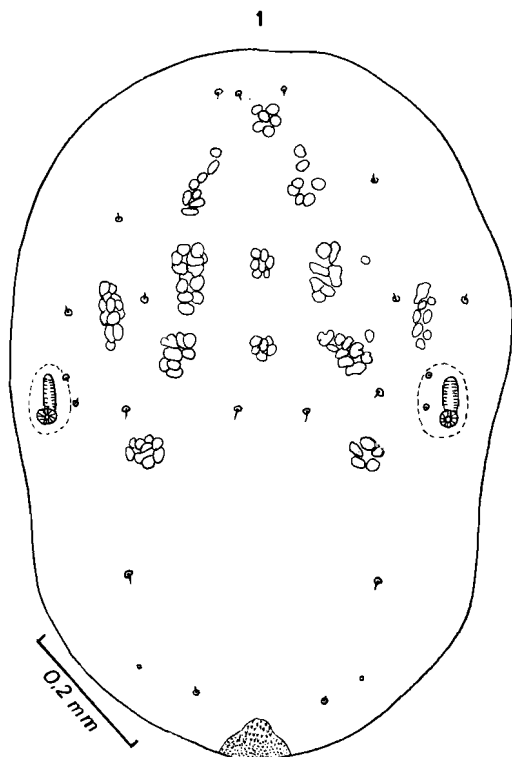


FIG. 1. — *Larinyssus sterna* sp. n. Holotype female, in dorsal view.

WAP 100  $\mu$ ; LG 195  $\mu$ ; WG 204  $\mu$ ; LP 75  $\mu$ ; LCH 210  $\mu$ ;  
WCH 57  $\mu$ ; LCh 19  $\mu$ .

The body is broadly oval and strongly rounded posteriorly. The opisthosoma is very short. The podosomal shield is represented only by the small muscles insertion areas; these areas are separated by smooth striated cuticle. The peritreme is elongate, 69  $\mu$  long and 27  $\mu$  wide at its base. There is no sternal shield. The

genital shield is much longer than wide. The subterminal ventral anus is situated in the anterior half of a poorly sclerotized shield ; the small cribrum is situated dorsally. Gnathosoma nearly terminal, rather broad. The palps are shorter than the gnathosomal

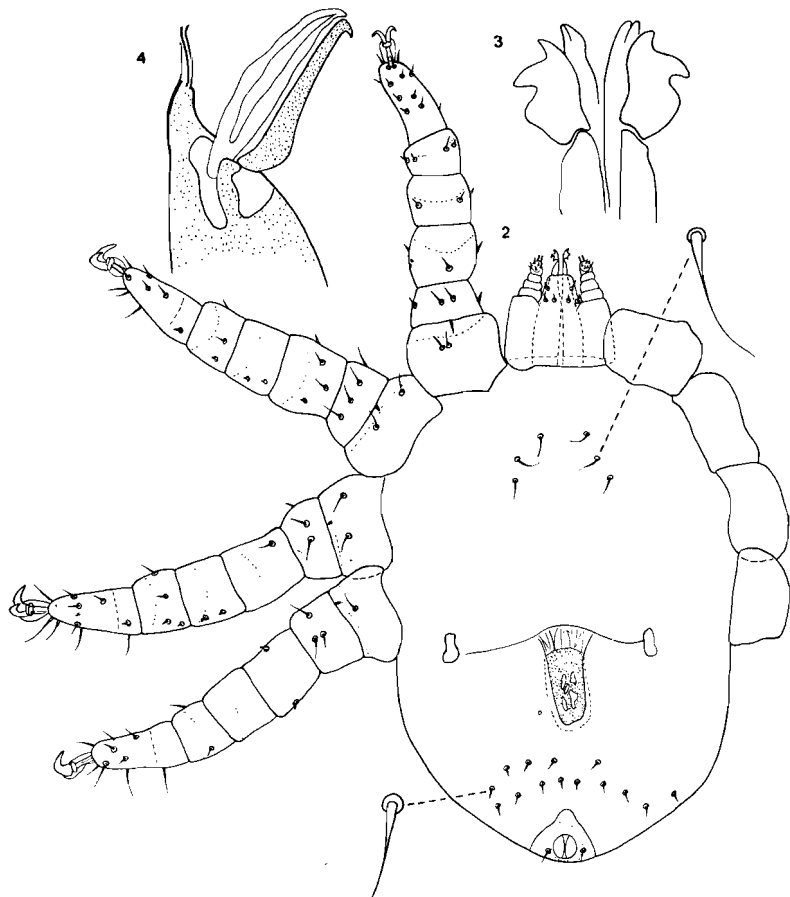


FIG. 2-4. — *Larinyssus sterna* sp. n.  
Holotype female in ventral view (fig. 2) ;  
cheliceral digits (fig. 3).  
Allotype male : cheliceral digits (fig. 4).

base. There are no deutosternal teeth, nor setae on the gnathosomal base. Chelicerae well developed, the movable digit with a strong recurved tooth. Legs long, with strong claws. The claws I are normal in shape, but a little smaller than the other ones.

**Chaetotaxy** : sternal setae very thin, with a swollen base. The opisthosoma bears ventrally 14 conical setae, strongly attenuated apically. Dorsum with a few very thin and short setae. Legs with small conical spines, some of them ending into a very thin hair.

**MALE** (allotype) (fig. 4) : LI<sub>d</sub> 660  $\mu$  ; WI<sub>d</sub> 540  $\mu$ . Dorsum and legs as in the female. Sternogenital shield very small, vestigial (30  $\mu$  long). Anus subterminal ventral. Chelicerae very large. The fixed digit is apparently partly membranous and very thin ; the movable digit is also partly membranous, its sclerified part is rather long (33  $\mu$ ), narrow, and with a recurved apex.

**Host and locality** :

In the nasal cavities of a young female of *Sterna fuscata fuscata* L., from Aves Is., a possession of Venezuela located in Eastern Caribbean (15°40'N ; 63°36'W).

**Date** : 21 June, 1971 (Coll. Myrna L. Holland).

**Types** : Holotype and allotype in the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique. Paratypes (2 ♀♀) in the collection of A. FAIN.

## 2. *Sternostoma boydi* STRANDTMANN, 1951

Several specimens of this common species have been found in association with *Larinyssus sterna* sp. n. So far it is the first time that that species is found in this host.

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