

**A NEW SPECIES OF *PNEUMOPHIONYSSUS* FROM ARGENTINA AND
NEW LOCALITY RECORDS OF ACARINE PARASITES
OF REPTILES IN MEXICO AND VENEZUELA
(MESOTIGMATA: ENTONYSSIDAE
AND LAELAPIDAE)¹**

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Abstract: *Pneumophionyssus jellisoni*, n. sp., from the lungs of an unidentified snake in Azul, Argentina, is described. *Ixodorhynchus liponyssoides* Ewing, 1922 is recorded for the first time from Mexico and *Ixobioides butantanensis* Fonseca, 1934, previously known only from Brazil and Chile, is recorded from Venezuela.

In this paper we report new Central and South American records for 2 ixodorhynchine species (Laelapidae) and describe a new species of *Pneumophionyssus* Fonseca, 1934 (Entonyssidae). The latter was collected from the lungs of an unidentified snake by Dr W. L. Jellison during the course of a survey of Argentinian vertebrates for pulmonary pathogens.

Family LAELAPIDAE Berlese, 1892
Subfamily IXODORHYNCHINAE Ewing, 1922
Genus IXODORHYNCHUS Ewing, 1922
Ixodorhynchus liponyssoides Ewing, 1922

Two females were collected 4.8 km (3 mi) N Chuhuichupa, Chihuahua, Mexico, 4.VII.1958, by W. W. Tanner (host not given). This species, the genotype, has previously been recorded on colubrid snakes from various localities in Canada and the United States (Fain 1962). Ixodorhynchine mites have not previously been reported for Mexico (Hoffmann 1969), although a collection of *I. liponyssoides* from British Honduras has been recorded (Fain 1962).

Genus IXOBIODES Fonseca, 1934
Ixobioides butantanensis Fonseca, 1934

A single female was taken off *Carollia* sp., 1 km SW Altimira, Puente Ricón, Barinas, Venezuela, 13.XII.1967, by N. E. Peterson. The host, a bat, is considered to be accidentally associated with the mite. Although widely distributed in Brazil and

known also from Chile (Fain 1962), *I. butantanensis* has not been previously reported for Venezuela.

Family ENTONYSSIDAE Ewing, 1923
Subfamily PNEUMOPHIONYSSINAE Fonseca, 1940

Genus PNEUMOPHIONYSSUS Fonseca, 1940
***Pneumophionyssus jellisoni*, n. sp.** FIG. 1-6

Diagnosis: Tritosternum well-developed, laciniate; stigma associated with a short, anterior peritreme; metasternal setae absent; sternal shield subrectangular. Differing from *P. aristoterisi* Fonseca 1940, the only other representative of the genus, in having a well-developed fixed chela, 2 rather than 3 pairs of setae on the sternal shield, and a greater number of dorsal shield setae.

Description: Holotype ♀ (FIG. 1-6): Idiosoma broadly oval and 828 μ long by 560 μ wide. Total length, including gnathosoma, 1020 μ. **Dorsum:** (FIG. 2). An elongate shield on dorsum bears 15 setae (7 pairs and an unpaired submedian seta). **Venter:** (FIG. 1). Tritosternum ends in 2 short barbed laciniae which do not reach base of palps. Sternal shield subrectangular and bears the 2 anterior pairs of sternal setae. Metasternal setae lacking. Genital shield long and narrow and bears 1 pair of setae. Soft cuticle of opisthosoma has 4 pairs of setae arranged 2-4-2. Anal shield oval, subterminally located, and bears 3 setae. Spiracles open ventrolaterally at level of coxae IV; anterior of these is a short peritreme. **Gnathosoma:** (FIG. 3 and 4). Palps much longer (123 μ) than base of gnathosoma (75 μ); well-developed bifurcate apotele on tarsus. Seven deutosternal teeth disposed in a single row. Chelicerae 168 μ long and at most 21 μ wide, movable digit is poorly sclerotized and triangular in shape, fixed digit is cylindrical and as long as movable one. **Legs:** (FIG. 5 and 6). Tarsal claws of legs I are less robust than those of other legs. Setae of most segments are short. Setal formula as follows:

	I	II	III	IV
coxa	2	2	2	1
trochanter	$1\frac{0}{2}-1$	$1\frac{0}{2}-1$	$1\frac{0}{2}-0$	4
femur	$2\frac{4}{2}-1$	$1\frac{5}{1}-1$	$1\frac{3}{1}-0$	$1\frac{3}{0}-0$
genu	$2\frac{4}{2}-1$	$2\frac{4}{0}-1$	$2\frac{4}{0}-1$	$2\frac{4}{0}-1$
tibia	$2\frac{4}{2}-1$	$2\frac{3}{2}-1$	$2\frac{3}{2}-1$	$2\frac{3}{2}-1$
tarsus	32	$3\frac{7}{4}-3$	$3\frac{7}{4}-3$	$3\frac{6}{5}-3$

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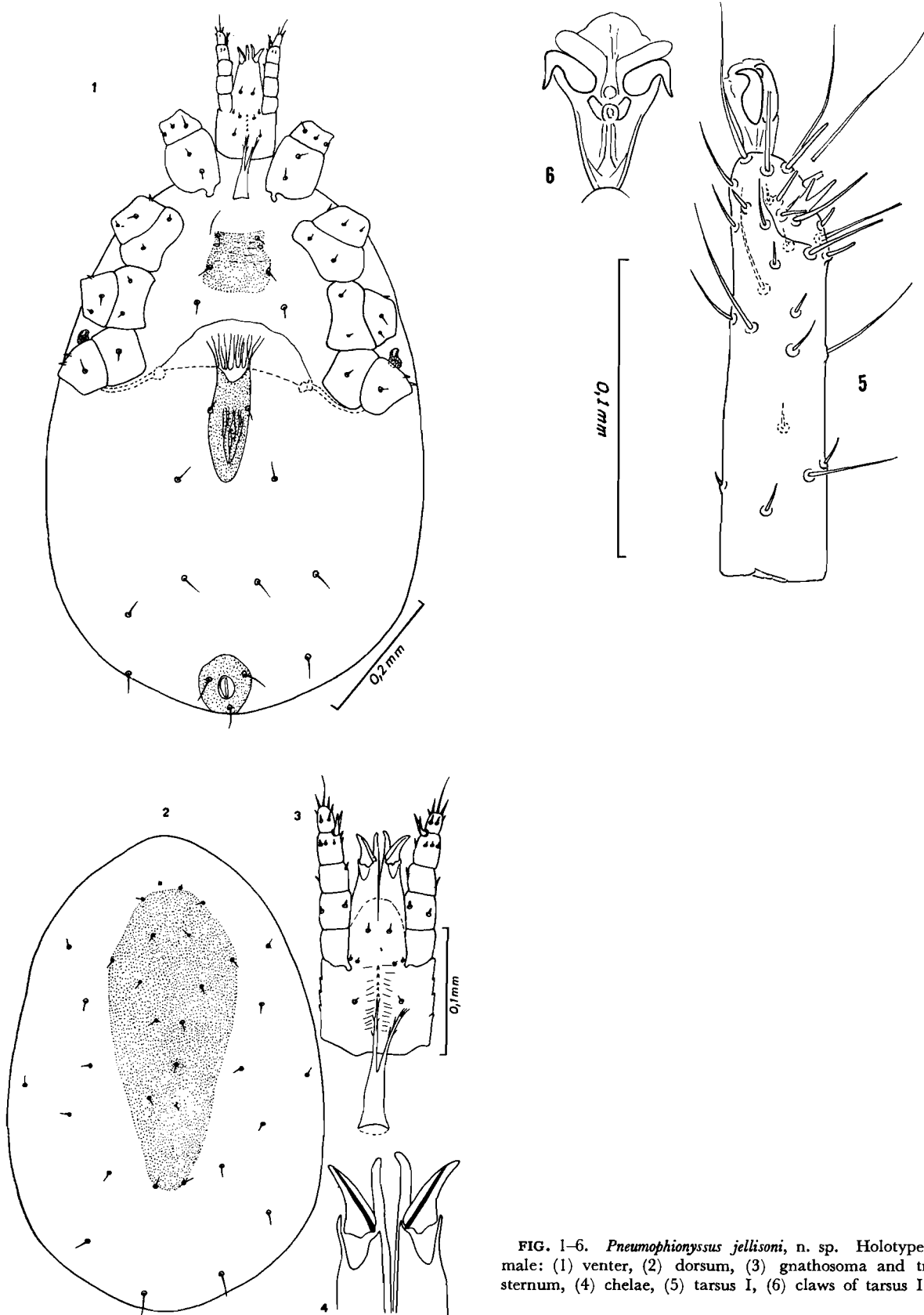


FIG. 1-6. *Pneumophionyssus jellisoni*, n. sp. Holotype female: (1) venter, (2) dorsum, (3) gnathosoma and tritosternum, (4) chelae, (5) tarsus I, (6) claws of tarsus II.

Material examined: Known only from the holotype, a single female found in the lungs of an unidentified snake near Azul, Argentina, 14.I. 1962, by W. L. Jellison.

Holotype specimen (USNM No. 3491) in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Remarks: We are pleased to name this species for its collector, Dr William L. Jellison, Medical Entomologist and Parasitologist (retired) of the U.S. Public Health Service, Rocky Mountain

Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana, U.S.A.

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