PELICANOPTES ONOCROTALI N.G., N. SP., AN EPIDERMOPTID MITE FROM PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS (Acarina: Epidermoptidae)

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PELICANOPTES ONOCROTALI N.G., N. SP., AN EPIDERMOPTID MITE FROM PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS (Acarina: Epidermoptidae)[1]

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ABSTRACT

Pelicanoptes onocrotali, n.g., n. sp., was collected from a pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, at the New York Zoological Park. The new taxon is assigned to the family Epidermoptidae, subfamily Dermationinae.

Fain (1965) divided the Epidermoptidae into two subfamilies. He characterized the Epidermoptinae (in part) by the males and females having legs I and II short and each bearing a dorsoterminal claw and eight setae, with setae *mG* on genu II, and with setae *l 4* and oil glands always present on the hysterosoma; the males with posterior lobes small or lacking; and the females with the epigynium never fused with the anterior epimera, adanal shields present, and genital apodemes well developed. Taxa classified as Dermationinae have males and females with legs I and II cylindrical without tarsal claws, and each with 6–7

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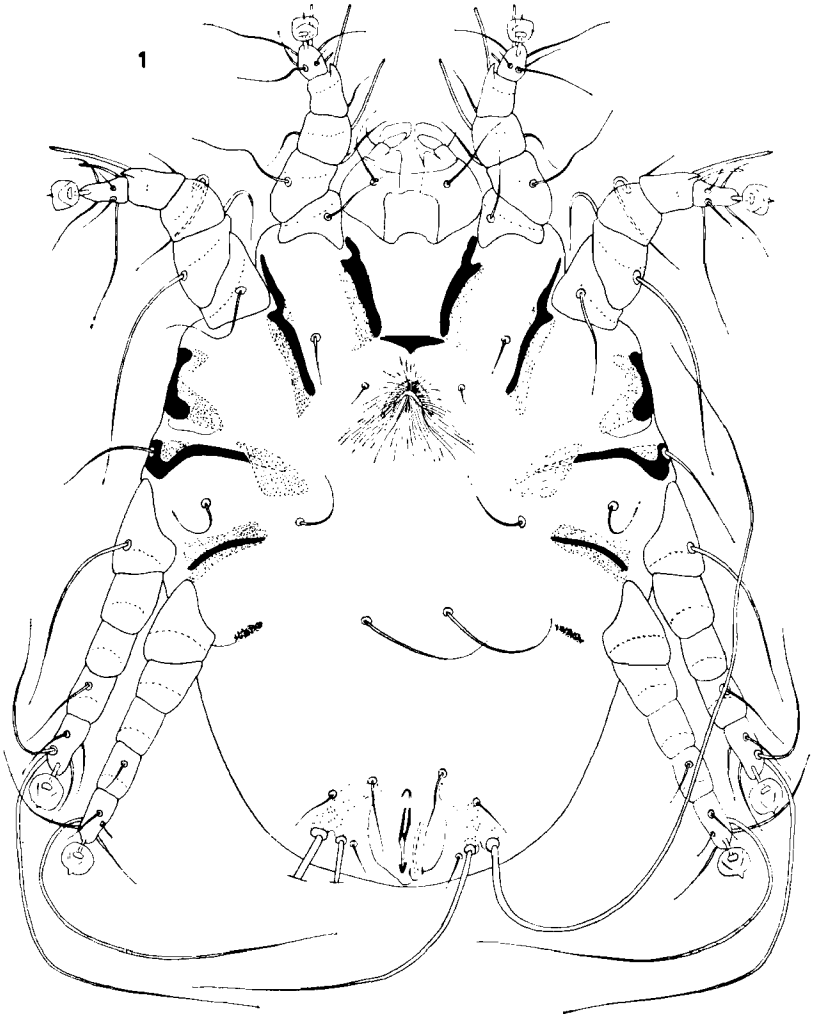


FIG. 1. *Pelicanoptes onocrotali*, n.g., n. sp., ventral aspect of female.

setae, and setae *mG, l 4*, and oil glands absent; the males with large posterior lobes bearing membranes; and the females with the epigynium broadly fused with the anterior epimera, adanal shields present, and genital apodemes vestigial or lacking.

The new species being described presents the main characters of the subfamily Dermationinae as well as features similar to the Epider-

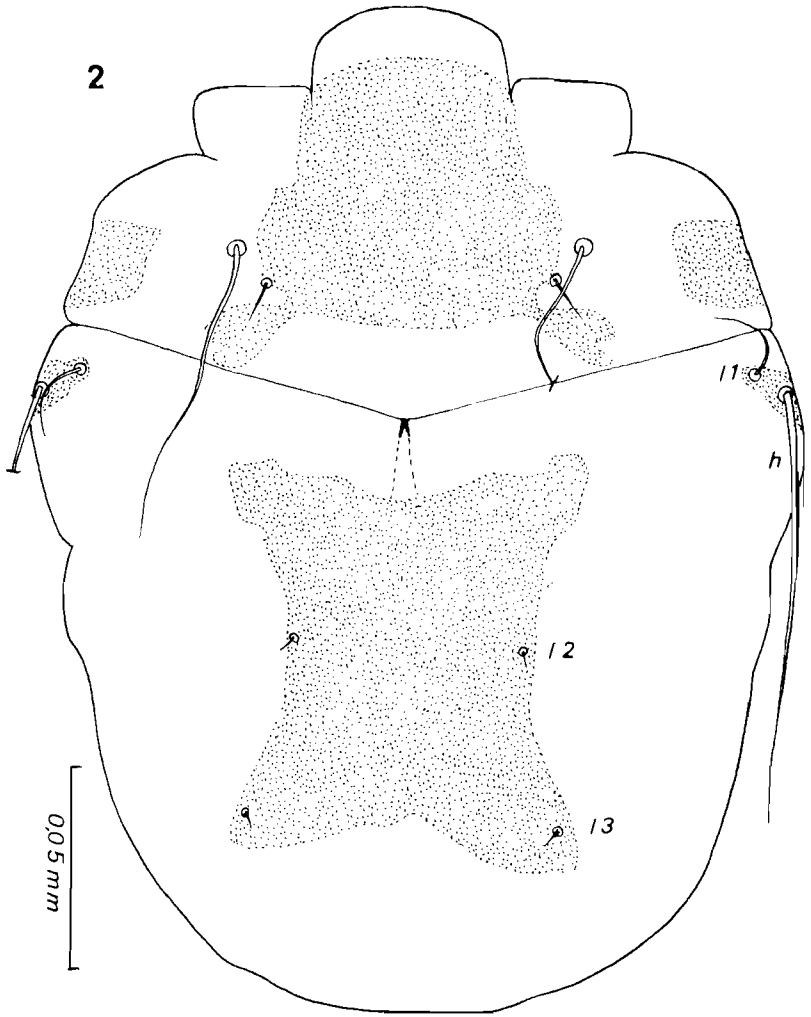
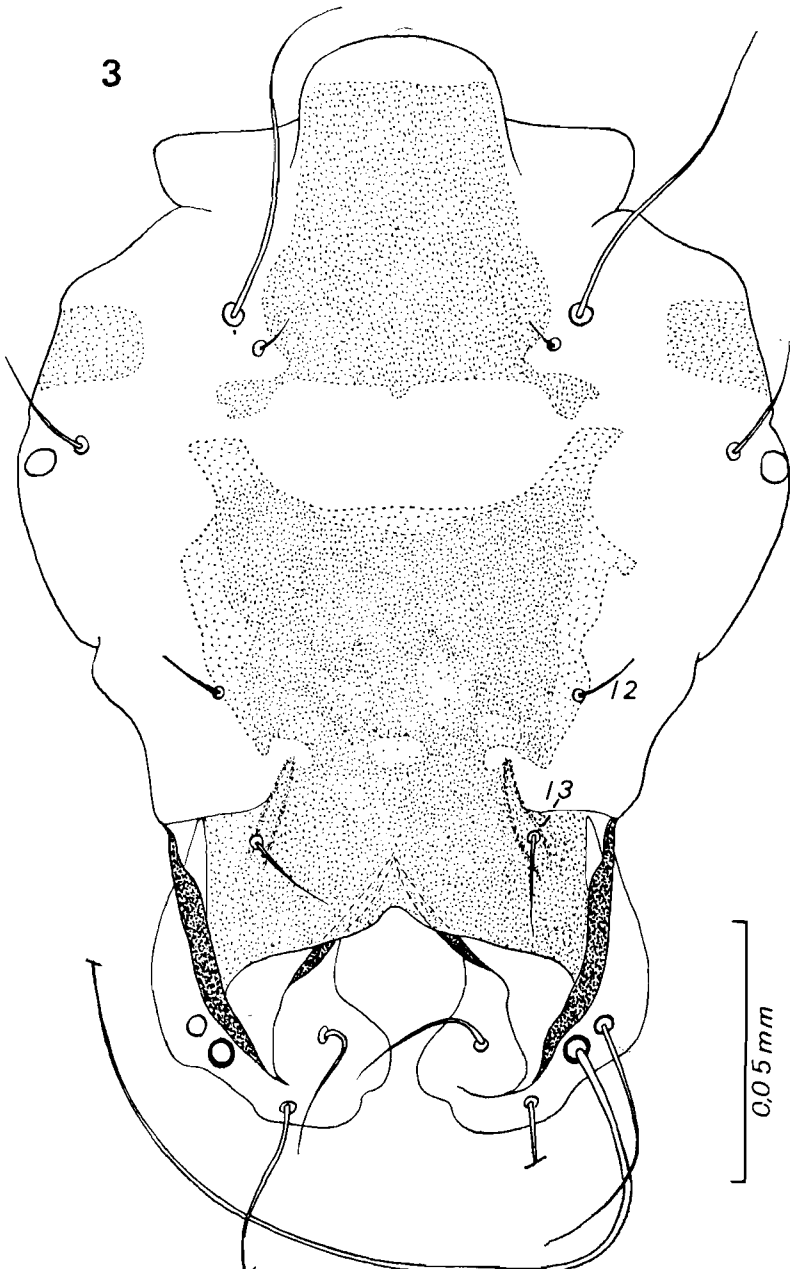


FIG. 2. *Pelicanoptes onocrotali*, n.g., n. sp., dorsal aspect of female.

moptinae. Suggesting the latter are the short, almost conical anterior legs, and in the female, the epigynium is independent or weakly connected to the anterior epimera. As concerns this connection, in some specimens there appears to be a weak, internal bridge between the epigynium and the epimera, in other specimens these connections are not evident.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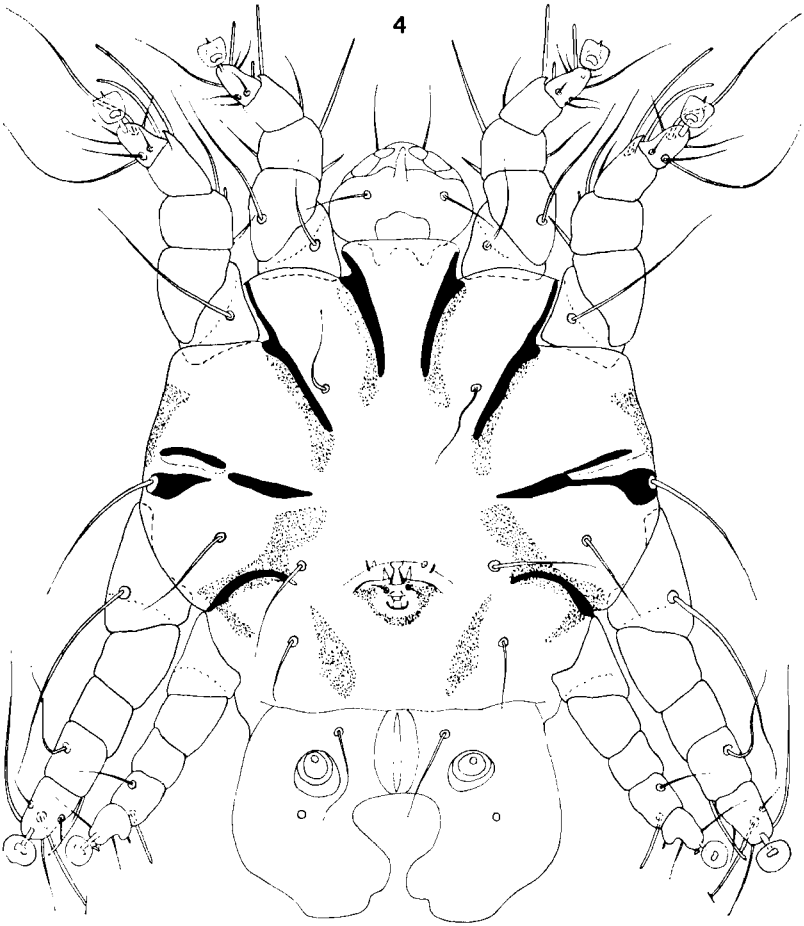

FIG. 4. *Pelicanoptes onocrotali,* n.g., n. sp., ventral aspect of male.

Pelicanoptes, new genus

DIAGNOSIS: A Dermationinae closely related to *Dermation* Trouessart and Neumann, 1888. Body in both sexes broadly oval; legs relatively short, without retrorse processes; setae *l 2* and *l 3* present. Male with legs III distinctly thicker and longer than legs IV. Female with epigynium not, or weakly connected with anterior epimera.

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FIG. 3. *Pelicanoptes onocrotali,* n.g., n. sp., dorsal aspect of male.

TYPE SPECIES: **Pelicanoptes onocrotali**, new species.

Pelicanoptes onocrotali, new species

FEMALE (holotype, figs. 1, 2): Length of idiosoma 261μ, maximal width 180μ. Propodosomal shield large, with two small posterolateral prolongations; setae *sc e* 75μ in length, setae *sc i* very small and thin. Hysterosomal shield longer than wide with borders excavate and bearing small setae *l 2* and *l 3*. Epigynium free, not fused with epimera I. Adanal shields poorly developed. Legs III and IV subequal, rather short. Tarsi I–IV with 7-7-5-5 setae respectively.

MALE (paratype, figs. 3, 4): Length of idiosoma, including posterior lobes, 210μ, maximal width 155μ. Propodosomal shield as in female. Hysterosomal shield irregularly sclerotized, maximal width 87μ at anterior half. Setae *l 2* very short, setae *l 3* longer than in female. Setae *h* broken (in all specimens). Posterior idiosomal lobes well developed and relatively wide. Epimera I free. Aedeagus small. Adanal discs well developed and widely separated. Legs III distinctly wider and longer than legs IV. Tarsi I–IV with 7-7-5-? setae respectively (see *Remarks* section).

TYPE DATA: From *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Pelecanidae): ♀ holotype, 4 ♂♂, 20 ♀♀ paratypes, New York Zoological Park, July 17, 1925. The holotype and paratypes are deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, paratypes in the University of Georgia, the Institut de Médecine Tropicale Prince Léopold, and the collection of J. Gaud, Rennes, France.

REMARKS: The chaetotaxy of male tarsus IV is uncertain. Presumably there are four or five setae, but only three are discernible—one ventral, one dorsoterminal and one seta modified as a small spine. In most males in which tarsi IV bear modified setae, the setae (*d* and *e*) appear as small spines or discs. We would assume that in this new species that two small spines are present, even though we can distinguish only one, thus making the total to be at least four setae.

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