

NOTIOPSYLLOPUS SEGERMANAE g.n., sp.n.,
A NEW HYPOPUS
(ACARINA : ACARIDAE)
PHORETIC ON AN AVIAN FLEA
NOTIOPSYLLA KERGUELENSIS
(TASCHENBERG, 1880)*

by A. FAIN**

The new heteromorphic deutonymph (= hypopus) that is described here has been found attached on several fleas *Notiopsylla kerguelensis* (Taschenberg, 1880). These fleas were recovered from an albatross *Phoebetria fusca* in Marian Island. The hypopi were collected by Mrs J. Segerman of the South African Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg.

These hypopi belong to a new genus and species of the family Acaridae, subfamily Rhizoglyphinae.

This new genus is clearly distinguished from all the other genera in this subfamily by the characters given below.

Notiopsyllopus gen. n.

Definition : This new genus resembles the other genera of the Rhizoglyphinae, except for three characters : 1) The tarsi I and II are devoid of any saucer-like hair. 2) The palposoma is divided internally by a longitudinal median sclerotized structure. 3) The anterior pair of suckers of the suctorial plate are vestigial.

Type species : *Notiopsyllopus segermanae* sp. n.

Notiopsyllopus segermanae sp. n.

This new species is named after Mrs. J. Segerman, who discovered these mites.

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HYPOPUS (fig. 1-4) : The holotype is 291 μ long and 183 μ wide. In 2 paratypes : 285 \times 183 μ and 279 \times 180 μ . *Dorsal surface* with a distinct sejugal furrow. Cuticle finely punctate. The area between propodosoma and hysterosoma bears fine and short striation. Dorsal hairs short. *Ventral surface* : the *vi* setae are situated in front of the palposoma, the *ve* setae are situated

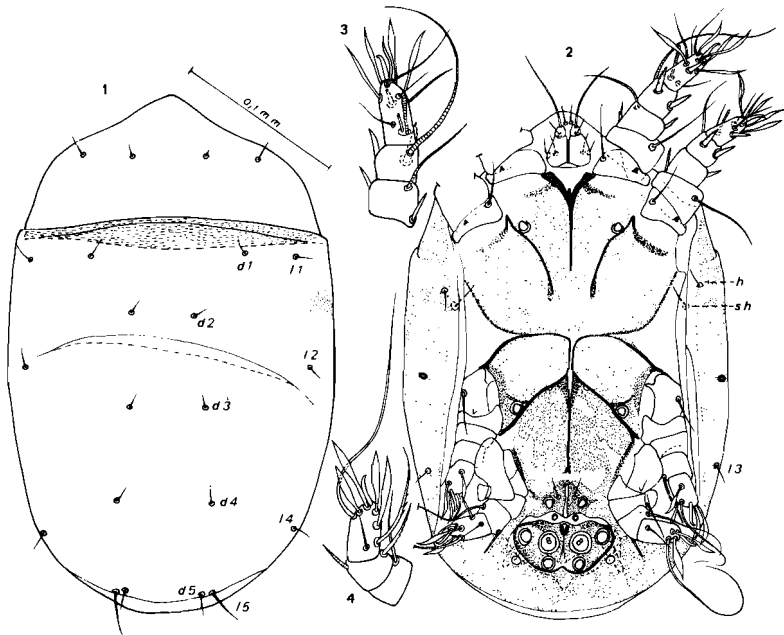


FIG. 1-4. — *Notiopsyllopus segermanae* sp. n. Hypopus.
 Holotype in dorsal (fig. 1) and ventral (fig. 2) view.
 Tarsus, tibia and genu I (fig. 3) and IV (fig. 4).

behind the *vi* setae at the level of the base of the palposoma and inside of the posterior pair of palposomal setae. Coxae punctate. Epimerae III and IV fused. The coxial shields III are clearly separated. The long pregenital longitudinal sclerite is forked anteriorly into two branches which are fused with the epimeral arches. The *cx I*, *cx III* and *gp* hairs are modified into conoids. Suctorial plate wider than long, with the two lateral conoids more anterior than the two paramedian conoids and the posterior suckers. Anterior suckers very small, vestigial. The posterior

suckers are well developed (see Fain, 1973). Palposoma short and wide, its base is divided internally by a longitudinal sclerotized structure ; apically it is forked into two short and rounded lobes bearing each a long solenidion (*alpha*). In addition the palposoma bears two pairs of short simple hairs. Legs stout but rather short. Tarsi I-IV with 9-8-8-7 hairs respectively. Tarsi I-II with 5 foliate hairs, tarsi III-IV with 4 foliate hairs. Tarsus IV with a long dorsal hair.

Host and locality :

On *Notiopsylla kerguelensis*, from an Albatross *Phoebetria fusca*, Marian Island, 23.IV.1975.

All our specimens (holotype and 10 paratypes) were found attached on 4 fleas which beared 1-2-3 and 5 hypopi respectively.

Type in the Musée royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren.

NOTES ON HYPOPI PHORETIC ON FLEAS

Phoretic hypopi of various groups of Astigmatic mites have been recorded from fleas parasitic on mammals or birds.

This association seems to be more frequent than expected so far.

The number of species of mites whose hypopi have been found in phoretic association with fleas is now 14. They belong to 7 genera and 3 families (Acaridae : 4 genera and 6 species ; Anoe-tidae : 2 genera and 4 species ; Saproglyphidae : 1 genus and 4 species).

Most of these species are known from fleas of mammals mainly rodents (4 species) but also insectivores (3 species) and carnivores (3 species). One species was present on fleas of both rodents and insectivores. Three species were found on fleas from birds.

REFERENCES ON PHORETIC ASSOCIATIONS

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