BLOMIA GRACILIPES (= CHORTOGLYPHUS GRACILIPES): REDESCRIPTION & STATUS (ACARINA: GLYCYPHAGIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: Chortoglyphus gracilipes Banks, 1917 is transferred from Chortoglyphus to Blomia Oudemans, 1928 and redescribed.

DESCRIPTORS: Glycyphagidae, Chortoglyphidae, Blomia gracilipes comb. nov., hypopial nymphs, follicular mites, house-dust mites.

Fain and Spicka (1977) have established that mites previously placed in the subfamily Aplodontopinae Fain, 1969 of the family Glycyphagidae should now be placed in the family Chortoglyphidae Berlese, 1897, because of the similarity of the adults of Aplodontopus Fain, 1967 with those of Chortoglyphus Berlese, 1884. Aplodontopus has been described from hypopial nymphs associated with the hair follicles on the tails of North American rodents whose adults live in nesting materials. Tadkowski and Hyland (1974) succeeded in rearing adults of A. sciuricola Hyland and Fain, 1968. Chortoglyphus has been found associated with floor dust of barns, mills, stables, granaries and houses. The genus Chortoglyphus presently contains two species, the cosmopolitan C. arcuatus (Troupeau, 1879) and C. gracilipes Banks, 1917, known only from North America.

Upon examining the types of Chortoglyphus gracilipes we were surprised to find that they were of another genus, namely Blomia Oudemans, 1928. We were able to examine these types from the U.S. National Museum of Natural History through the courtesy of Dr. E.W. Baker. The slide contains two female specimens along with a cheyletid mite and two psocids. The specimens were mounted in balsam and are in relatively poor condition. No attempt was made to remount them so there are certain characters which are difficult to verify.

Redescription of Blomia gracilipes (Banks, 1917) nov. comb. (= Chortoglyphus gracilipes) (fig. 1-3)

The typical slide contains two female specimens. They measure 300 μ x 172 μ (specimen in ventral view) and 285 μ x 154 μ (specimen in ventro-lateral view) respectively (gnathosoma included). We designate as lectotype the specimen in ventral view.

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Fig. 4. *Blomia tropicalis* Van Bronswijk et al. Paratype female: copulatory tube.
extremity of body. This tube is 39 μ long and distinctly longer than the genu I (34 μ). It is slightly bent in the larger specimen and strongly curved in the other specimen. The tube is distinctly pointed apically (fig. 3). Banks describes it as follows: "At tip of body is a prominent down-curved spine". Venter: Genital region very large, vulva in an inverted Y with a large posterior lip (fig. 2). The legs are long. Tarsi I to IV very narrow; their lengths are 63 μ - 62 μ - 72 μ and 75 μ. Chelicerae 87 μ long. Setae of legs as in other species of Blomia. Solenidia: Leg 1: ω1 14-15 μ long, narrow and cylindrical; ω2 very short (1.5 μ long). The solenidia ω1 and ω2 are inserted at the same distance from the base of the tarsus (fig. 1). Sigma longer than the tarsus; phi is 3.8 μ long and conical.

**Habitat:** Lectotype and one female syntype from Tampa, Florida, 5 August 1913, in tobacco infested with the cigarette beetle (Runner).

### Systematic Position of *Blomia gracilipes*

Van Bronswijk et al. (1973 a,b) have reviewed the genus *Blomia* and recognize six species. *B. gracilipes* belongs to the group which possesses a long copulatory tube and has the solenidia ω1 and ω2 of tarsus I situated at the same distance from base of tarsus. These characters are shared by *B. kulagini* Zachvatkin, 1936 and *B. tropicalis* Van Bronswijk et al., 1973.

*B. gracilipes* lacks the pair of cuticular projections ("wrats" of Van Bronswijk et al.) on the posterior region of opisthosoma but this character might not be visible owing to the poor condition of the specimens. With this exception it appears extremely close to *B. kulagini*. Unfortunately the type of *B. kulagini*, along with others of Zachvatkin, has been lost so it is impossible to decide if it should fall into synonymy with *B. gracilipes*.

Van Bronswijk et al. have chosen what they believe to be specimens representative of *B. kulagini* from Japan but they have noted several differences between the original description and their material. We think therefore that the identity of the true *kulagini* could be ascertained only after examination of new specimens collected from the typical locality (wheat stored in Moscow granaries).

### REFERENCES


