

Paracoroptes natalensis n. sp.
from South Africa
(Acari: Psoroptidae)

BY A. FAIN AND J. SEGERMAN

The genus *Paracoroptes* Lavoipierre, 1955 has been created for a new species of Psoroptidae (*Paracoroptes gordonii* Lav. 1955) found on *Cercopithecus m. mona* in Kumba, Cameroun.

In 1963, Fain revised the family Psoroptidae and erected for this genus a new subfamily Paracoroptinae.

Besides the typical species, the genus *Paracoroptes* contains two other species, both from monkeys in Zaïre : *P. allenopithecii* Fain, 1963, from *Allenopithecus nigroviridis*, and *P. colobi* Fain, 1963, from *Colobus polykomos abyssinicus*.

The new species that we describe here was found on the cane rat, *Thryonomys swinderianus*, from Natal, South Africa. However, it appears more probable that the true host was also a monkey as for the other species of the genus and not a rodent. The cane rat had not been in contact with any zoo animals but it had probably been mixed with monkeys during the transport.

This new species is characterized in the male by the great length of the posterior lobes (much longer than in *P. gordonii*) and in the female by the shape of the dorsal shield, resembling that of *P. colobi*, and the very short and thin shape of the dorsal setae (much smaller than in *P. colobi* and in *P. allenopithecii*).

It is to be noted that the female of *P. gordonii* described by Lavoipierre as a female is actually a nymph. The original series probably did not contain females.

Paracoroptes natalensis spec. nov.

Female (fig. 1): Holotype 365 μ long (gnathosoma included) and 238 μ wide. Cuticle finely striated. Posterior border rounded and very slightly notched in the midline.

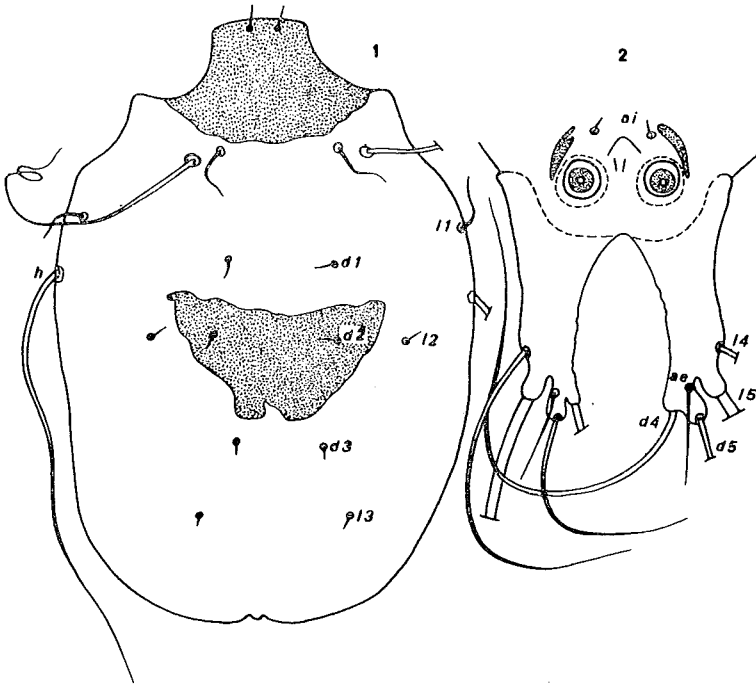


Fig. 1-2. — *Paracoroptes natalensis* sp. n. - Dorsum of female (fig. 1) and posterior extremity of male (fig. 2).

Dorsum : anterior shield as in *P. colobi*. Hysteronotal shield irregularly trapezoidal, 60 μ long and 115 μ wide (in its anterior half). Dorsal chaetotaxy as in *P. colobi* and *P. allenopitheci* except that the *h* setae are much thicker and longer (210-220 μ long) and that the *d* 1, *d* 2, *d* 3, *d* 12 and *d* 13 are on the contrary much thinner and shorter

(only 6 to 12 μ long). *Venter* : as in *P. allenopitheci*. Legs : anterior legs longer than in that species. The tarsi III-IV are distinctly longer (55-60 μ) than their corresponding tibiae (30-33 μ).

Male (fig. 2) : allotype 384 μ long (gnathosoma and posterior lobes included) and 305 μ wide. Posterior lobes 96 μ long and 27 μ wide in their median part. They are 48 μ apart (maximum). Dorsum and legs as in *P. allenopitheci* except that setae *d* 2 and *d* 3 are stronger and longer. Legs : tibiae I-II with solenidia as long as tibia + tarsus.

Host and locality

All the specimens were found on *Thryonomys swinderianus*, from Cape Vidal, 25 Km N. of Sta Lucia, Natal (12.IX.1977), however this host was probably a contamination and the true host was likely a monkey. (Holotype [MRAC 149.221] and 2 paratypes female, allotype [MRAC 149.222] and 1 paratype male, 1 nymph).

Types in the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale. Paratypes in S.A. Institute for Medical Research and in the collection of A. Fain.

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