

STUNKARDACARUS MIRABILIS n.gen., n.sp. ;
A VERY UNUSUAL HYPOPUS
IN THE FAMILY ACARIDAE (Acari, Astigmata)

by A. FAIN**

We describe here a very unusual hypopus found in the litter of a domestic goose in Butare, Rwanda. It belongs to a new species and a new genus of the family Acaridae.

Genus **Stunkardacarus** n.gen.

Definition : With the characters of the Acaridae. Body strongly convex dorsally, venter flat, margins membranous, dorsum pitted along posterior and lateral margins. Tegmen short, slightly concave, with a rounded median process bearing the *vi* setae. Dorsal setae short, flattened and trifurcate except *l2* which are membranous and with rounded apices. *Vi* setae moderately long. The *ve* are very strong and as long as the body. Stenrum and epimera II equal in length, reaching nearly the furrow separating the anterior from the posterior coxal fields. Epimera IV long, reaching the *ga* setae. Suctorial plate very small, wider than long, far remote from posterior border of body. The posterior suckers are slightly larger than the anterior ones ; the lateral conoids a little in front of the posterior suckers. The *gp* are conoids. Posterior legs long, as long as anterior legs. The femora III-IV about 4 times longer than wide. All tarsi long and narrow, ending in a well-developed claw. Posterior setae of tibiae and genua I-II membranous and very wide.

Type species : *Stunkardacarus mirabilis* sp.n.

This new genus is named for Professor Horace W. Stunkard of U.S.A., who discovered the role of mites in the transmission of Anoplocephalidae (Cestoda) parasitic of Cattle.

* Déposé le 5 avril 1978.

** Institut de Médecine Tropicale, Nationalestraat 155, B-2000 Antwerpen.

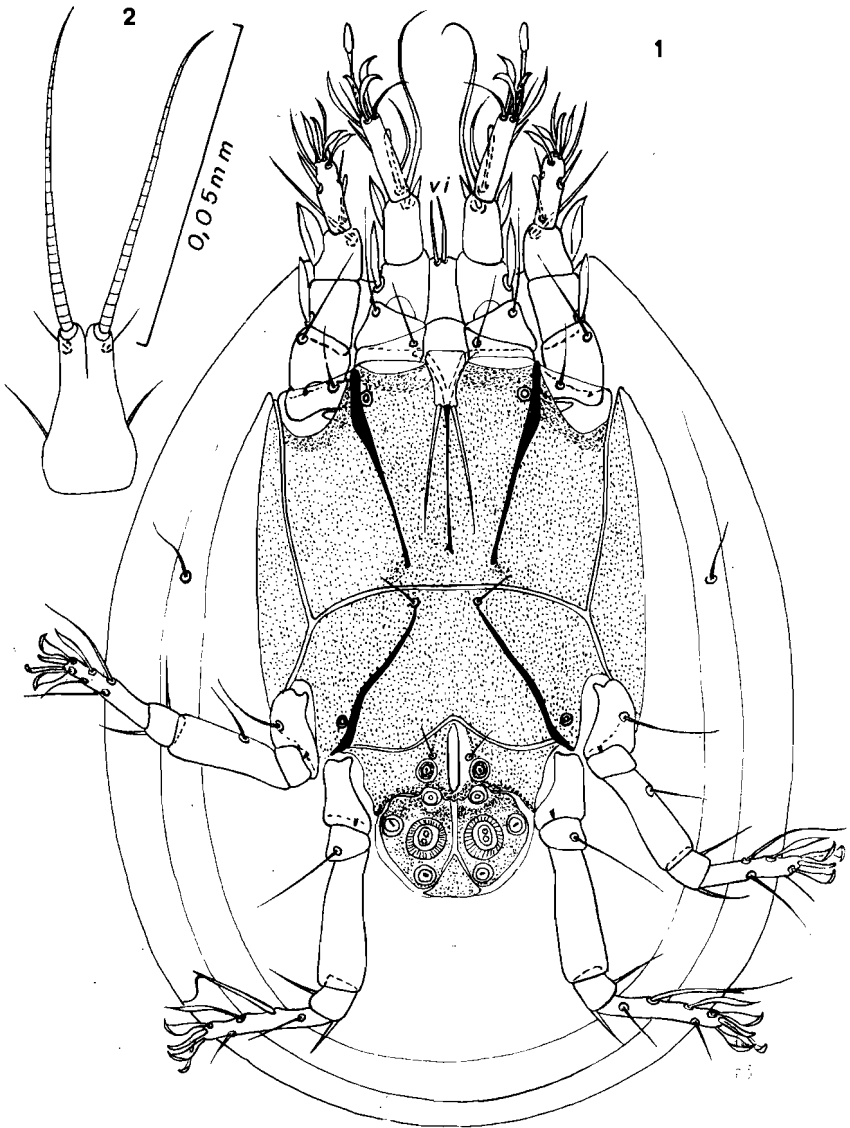


FIG. 1 - 2. — *Stunkardacarus mirabilis* n.sp. Holotype hypopus in ventral view (1); palposoma in ventral view (2).

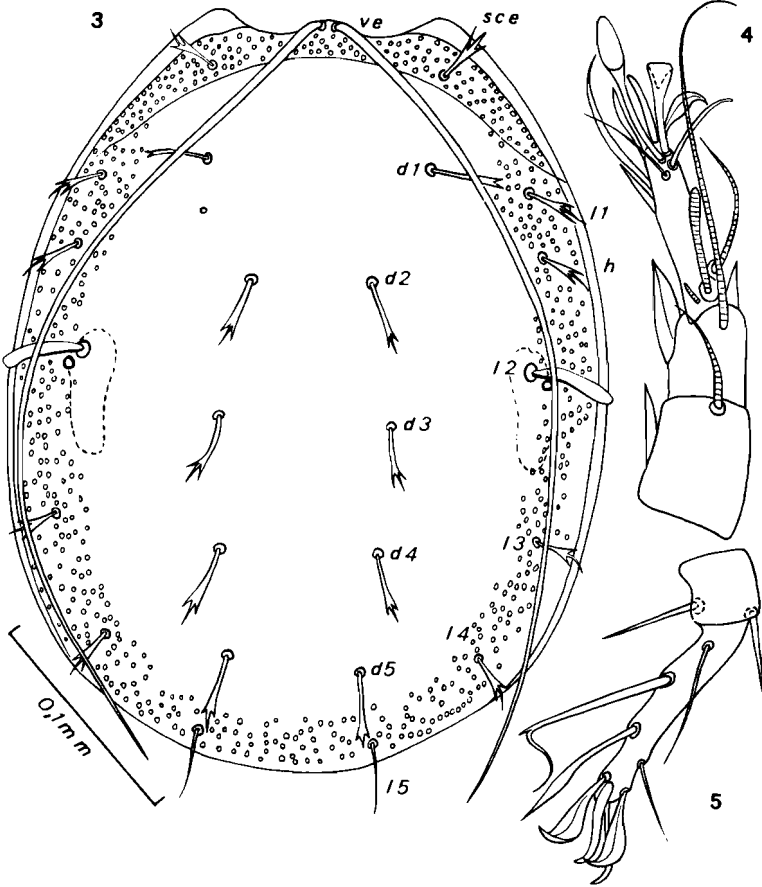


FIG. 3 - 5. — *Stunkardacarus mirabilis* n.sp. Holotype hypopus in dorsal view (3); tarsus, tibia and genu I (4); tarsus and tibia IV (5).

Stunkardacarus mirabilis n.sp.

Hypopus (fig. 1-5) : The holotype is 332 μ long and 261 μ wide. In two paratypes these measurements are 340 μ \times 240 μ . *Dorsum* : the sejugal furrow is very anterior. Propodosoma and lateral and posterior margins of body distinctly pitted. *Venter* : setae *cx I* and *g p* are thick conoids, the *cx III* are small ovoid setae. Suctorial plate small, wider (60 μ) than long (38 μ). Palposoma longer (25 μ) than its maximum width (13 μ). Chaetotaxy of legs : Tarsus I with 5 foliate setae (3 wide and 2 narrow), 1 saucer like seta, 1 spine and 2 thin setae. Tarsus II as tarsus I but without the saucer like seta. Tarsus III with 3 foliate, 4 thin and 1 saucer like setae. Tarsus IV as tarsus III but with an additional simple seta.

Habitat and locality :

In the litter of a domestic goose in Butare, Rwanda, 23 March 1968 (Coll. A. Frain) (Holotype and 9 paratypes, all hypopi). Type in the Musée de Tervuren.
