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**PROTOMYOBIA NEPALENSIS N.SP. (ACARI: MYOBIIDAE) FROM  
SORICULUS NIGRESCENS IN NEPAL**

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----- ABSTRACT—*Protomyobia nepalensis* n. sp. (Acarina: Myobiidae) in described from *Soriculus nigrescens* in Nepal. -----

Dusbabék and Daniel (1975) described *Protomyobia kounickyi* from *Soriculus caudatus*, Phematan, Great Himalaya Mts, Nepal. We have found, on a related host *Soriculus nigrescens*, also from Nepal a new species of *Protomyobia* that we describe here.

*Protomyobia nepalensis* n. sp.

This species is distinguished from *P. kounickyi* Dusbabék and Daniel, 1975, by the following characters: In female setae *ic 4* very small (in *P. kounickyi* these setae are long), *ic 1* to *ic 3* longer, *sc i*, *d 1*, *d 2*, *l 2*, *d 3*, *d 4* longer and stronger; internal seta of coxa I situated more anteriorly; claws of leg III-IV shorter, thicker, with a basal process and with ventral surface striated (as in genus *Nectogalobia*). In male it is distinguished by normal shape, without thickenings, of setae *ve*, *sc e* and *l 1*, by presence of a thick and long sheath for aedeagus, and very small size of *ic 4*.

This species is distinguished from *P. nodosa* Jameson, 1970, in female mainly by very small length of *ic 4*, smaller length of coxal setae, presence of only one pair of setae behind *ic 4*. Male is distinguished by presence of a thick and long sheath for aedeagus.

**FEMALE** (Figs. 1-2)—Holotype 411 $\mu$ m long (gnathosoma included, until tip of palps) and 302 $\mu$ m wide. A paratype measures 420 $\mu$ m x 296 $\mu$ m. Setae *ve*, *sc e* and *l 1* normal, regularly attenuated apically, without ventral inflation. Setae *vi* very small. Setae *sc i*, *d 1*, *d 2*, *l 2*, *d 3*, *d 4* with a ventral inflation in their median part (not in their basal part as in *P. kounickyi*), measure 48 $\mu$ m (*d 4*) to 55-63 $\mu$ m (*sc i*, *d 1*, *d 2*, *d 3*, *l 2*); behind these setae are 3 very thin and short (12 $\mu$ m) setae (*d 5*, *l 3* and *l 4*). Ventrally—*ic 1* to *ic 3* relatively long and very finely attenuated apically (approximately 90 $\mu$ m long). Setae *ic 4* very small. Coxae I-IV with 2-3-0-0 setae. A distinct orifice visible immediately in front of *g 1* setae, it leads into a membranous tube becoming sclerotized proximally. It represents probably a copulatory tube. Legs short. Claws I small, claws II unequal, claws III-IV very strong and striated ventrally. Gnathosoma as in *P. kounickyi*. Chaetotaxy of legs II-IV (number of setae) trochanters 2-3-3, femora 5-3-3, genua 7-6-6, tibiae 6-6-6, and tarsi 6-6-6.

**MALE** (Figs. 3-4)—Allotype 336 $\mu$ m x 230 $\mu$ m. General shape as in *P. kounickyi*.

**DORSUM**—Shape of setae *ve*, *sc e* and *l 1* as in female, measure 105 $\mu$ m, 108 $\mu$ m and 150 $\mu$ m long respectively. Setae *vi* and *sc i* very thin and short. Genital orifice with 3 pairs of very small anterior paramedian genital setae, immediately behind orifice is one pair of very small paramedian spines. Sheath of aedeagus long (110 $\mu$ m) and thick (8 $\mu$ m). Aedeagus excessively attenuated, its total length measures 150-170 $\mu$ m, attenuated flagelliform part about 80-90 $\mu$ m long. Setae *d 1* measure 18 $\mu$ m and not inflated, behind these setae are 3 pairs of setae with a ventral inflation in their median part, their length is 32-40  $\mu$ m. Legs and gnathosoma are as in female.

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Fig. 1: *Protomyobia nepalensis* sp. n. (female holotype)—ventral view.

**TRITONYMPH** (containing a female)—Length  $370\mu\text{m}$ , width  $270\mu\text{m}$ . All dorsal and ventral setae very thin and short. Ventral striation replaced by transverse series of very small cuticular thickenings wider than long. Legs I symmetrical. Legs II with 2 very unequal claws. Legs III-IV with a very thick and short claw provided with a small and thick basal tooth.

**LARVA**—Length  $140\mu\text{m}$ , width  $118\mu\text{m}$ . Dorsum with 8 pairs of setae. The first pair very small and not toothed while followings are longer and toothed. Legs II with 2 claws, one long and strong curved and another very thin, short, and almost straight. Leg III with only long claw.

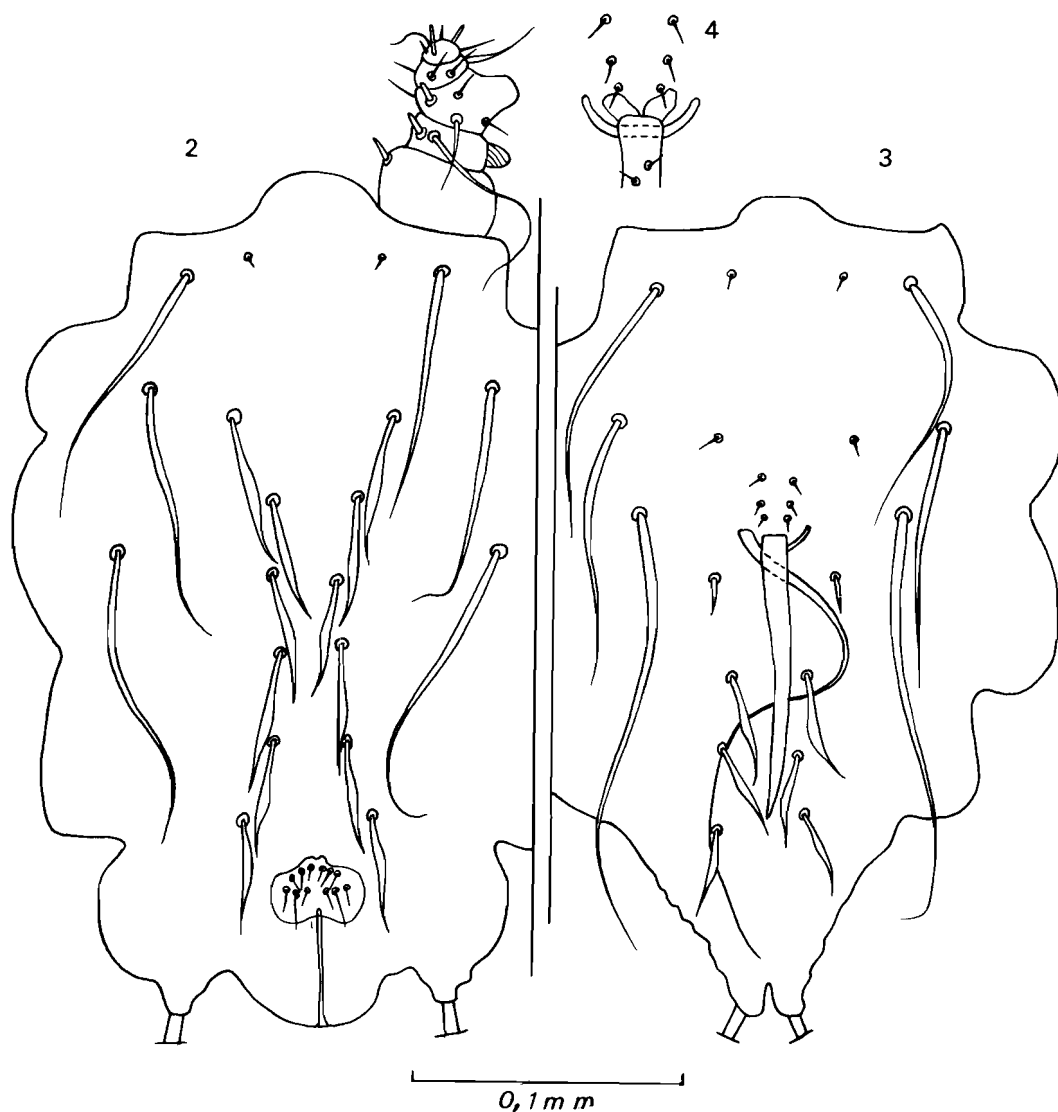


Fig. 2-4: *Protomyobia nepalensis* n. sp. -2, (holotype female)-dorsal view; 3,4, (allotype male)-3, dorsal view; 4, and genital area enlarged.

**EGG AND PRELARVA**—The larva was contained in an envelope completely striated transversely (=prelarva) and presenting apically a pair of sclerotized rods with apex slightly inflated resembling head of an arrow. This prelarva was, in turn, enclosed in egg shell.

**HOST AND LOCALITY**—On *Soriculus nigrescens*, Dhar Khola, West Nepal, 3. XII 1975. Holotype and 2 paratype females, allotype male, 2 paratype males, 2 nymphs and 1 paratype larva. Holotype in U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; paratypes in the collection of the authors.

**REMARKS**—By the thick and striated aspect of claws III-IV, *Protomyobia nepalensis* resembles *Nectogalobia sinensis* Fain & Lukoschus, 1976 described from China, however, in this species the legs and claws III-IV are much more developed and apparently serve for the fixation to the hairs of the host. These very large claws are also present on legs III-IV of the nymphs and on legs III of larva of *N. sinensis*.

*Protomyobia kounickyi* Dusbabék & Daniel, 1975

We attribute to this species 1 female, 1 male and embryonated eggs containing larvae, found on *Soriculus caudatus*, the typical host of *P. kounickyi*, in Lunsum, Dhar Khola, West Bengal, West Nepal, l. XII. 1975.

These specimens agree with the description of *P. kounickyi* except that in the female the sclerotized part of the ventral "copulatory tube" is distinctly longer.

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CORRIGENDA—The 3 pairs of setae *d5*, *l3* and *l4* have been omitted on **Fig. 2**.

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