

## Description of a new species of *Gahrliepia* from Zaïre

(*Acari : Prostigmata : Trombiculidae*)

BY M. NADCHATRAM<sup>1)</sup> AND A. FAIN<sup>2)</sup>

In this paper a new species of *Gahrliepia* Oudemans is described and illustrated. It was collected by A. F. from the ear of an insectivore in Kivu Province, Zaïre.

***Gahrliepia* (*Gahrliepia*) *pyriformis* Nadchatram & Fain, n. sp. (Fig. 1-8)**

*Diagnosis of larva:* Eyes 1 + 1; palpal formula B/N/NNB + 5B; claw 3-pronged; galeal seta nude; pear-shaped scutum with 26-28 usurped setae; coxa III bisetose. In having numerous usurped setae and bisetose coxa III the new species is comparable with *G. barbiger* Traub & Morrow, 1955, but separable in the shape of scutum, number of DS and palpal formula. *G. miriellae* Taufflieb, 1965 is separated from the new species in having a tongue-shaped scutum, fewer usurped setae and 4 setae on coxa III.

*Description of larva:* Idiosome of engorged larva broadly elongate, 400 × 350 μm; unengorged larva 190 × 170 μm. Ovoid eyes 1 + 1 inserted on elongated ocular plate. *Gnathosome.* Elongate cheliceral base 33 μm long, evenly punctate, blade 25 μm long, with a subapical dorsal and a beak-like ventral tooth. Palpal formula B/N/NNB + 5B,

---

1) Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2) Institut de Médecine tropicale, Antwerpen, Belgium.

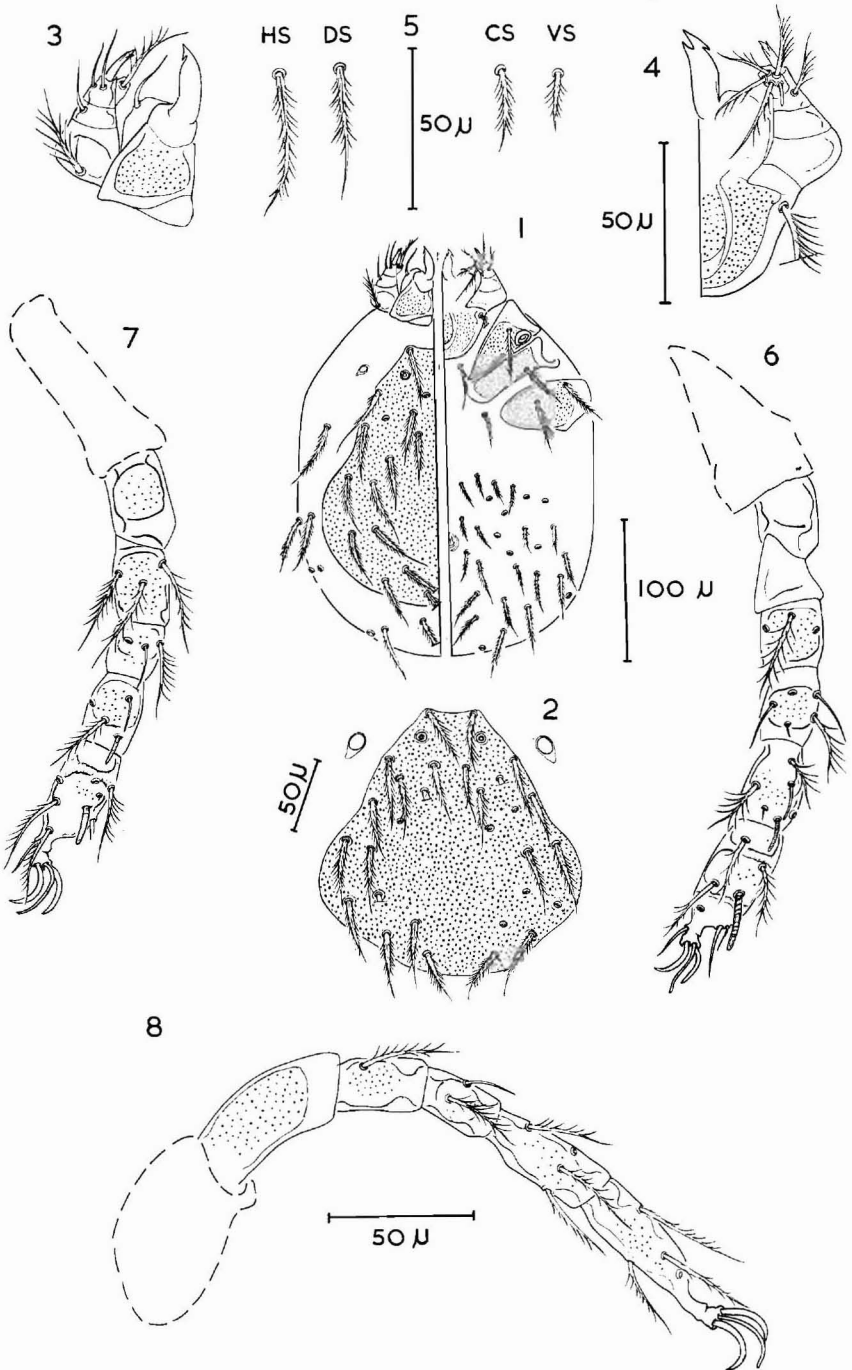


Fig. 1-8. — *Gahrlipeia (Gahrlipeia) pyriformis* n. sp. - 1. dorsal and ventral aspects of larva; - 2. scutum and eyes; - 3, 4. dorsal and ventral aspects of gnathosome; - 5. humeral, dorsal, caudal and ventral setae; - 6, 7, 8. legs I, II, III.

femoral and ventrotibial setae distinctly barbed. Claw slender, 3-pronged. Galeal seta nude. *Scutum*. Pear-shaped, broadest at distal  $\frac{1}{3}$ . In engorged and partially engorged specimens scutum posteriorly displaced. Anterior margin slightly incurved, lateral margins slanting outwards, broadest behind 4th pair of marginal (scutal) setae; posterior margin very broadly convex. Scutal punctae of uniform size, densely distributed over entire scutum. ALs placed at anterolateral corners; usurped setae number 26 to 28 of which 5-6 pairs are marginal. Scutal setae of unequal length, but strongly barbed. Scutal measurements, in micrometers, of holotype and 2 paratypes: AW 32 (28,32); PW 80 (83,87); SB 40 (40,41); ASB 20 (18,21); PSB 155 (144,163); SD 175 (162,184); A-P 34 (33,35); AL 45 (47,45); PL 52 (52,52). Sens. missing. *Body setae*. HS 49-50  $\mu\text{m}$ ; DS 43  $\mu\text{m}$ ; VS 19  $\mu\text{m}$ ; CS 27-29  $\mu\text{m}$  long. HS and DS strongly barbed as scutal setae, approximately 10 in number, arranged 2.4.4.2. VS 34-40 in number and caudal setae 18-24 in number. 2 pairs of sternal setae of almost equal length, 26-30  $\mu\text{m}$ . *Legs*. 7-6-6 segmented. Ip 700-720  $\mu\text{m}$ . Coxa III bisetose, 66-70  $\times$  36-38  $\mu\text{m}$ . Terminal claws stout and flexed, empodium slender and slightly longer than claws. Ordinary setae pectinate or bipectinate. Measurements of legs, type and number of nude and pectinate setae as follow: *Leg I*: 220-228  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Tarsus 47-50  $\times$  22  $\mu\text{m}$ ; tarsala 18-19  $\mu\text{m}$  long, microtarsala indiscernable, 1 subterminala, 1 pretarsala and 20 pectinate setae. Tibia with 2 tibialae in tandem, distal tibiala blunt, 1 microtibiala and 8 pectinate setae. Genu with 2 genualae, 1 microgenuala and 4 pectinate setae; remaining segments with 5, 1, 1 pectinate setae. *Leg II*: 210-215  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Tarsus 45-47  $\times$  19  $\mu\text{m}$ ; tarsala 14  $\mu\text{m}$  long, 1 microtarsala proximal to base of tarsala, 1 pretarsala and 14 pectinate setae. Tibia with 2 tibialae in tandem and 6 barbed setae. Genu with a single genuala and 3 barbed setae. Femur with 4 pectinate and 1 short, nude seta. Trochanter with 1 pectinate seta. *Leg III*: 270-277  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Tarsus 62-63  $\times$  17-18  $\mu\text{m}$ , with 14 barbed setae. Tibia with 6 barbed setae; tibiala lacking. Genu with 1 genuala and 3 pectinate setae. Remaining segments with 5 and 1 pectinate setae.

*Type material*: Holotype and 2 paratypes, mounted on a single slide, ex ear of *Micropotamogale ruwenzorii* Frechkop and de Witte (Insectivora, Micropotamogaleidae), Kisanga, Tshabunda, Kivu Province, Zaïre. Host collected by Dr. Rahm in 1961. The slide containing the holotype and paratypes (MRAC 152.192) is deposited in the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium.

*Remark*: The name of the species refers to the pear-shaped scutum.

SUMMARY

A new species, *Gahrlepiea pyriformis* Nadchatram & Fain is described from the ear of *Micropotamogale ruwenzorii* (Insectivora) in Kivu Province, Zaïre.

REFERENCES

- TAUFFLIEB, R., 1965. — Le sous-genre *Gahrlepiea* (Acarina, Trombiculidae) en Afrique Subsaharienne. — *Acarologia*, 7 : 510 - 522.
- TRAUB, R. and M.L. MORROW, 1955. — A revision of the chiggers of the subgenus *Gahrlepiea* (Acarina: Trombiculidae). — *Smithsonian Misc. Collections, Wash.*, 128 (6): 1 - 89.