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THYREOPHAGUS VERMICULARIS sp. n.
(Acari, Acaridae) FROM **CROCIDURA**
SUAVEOLENS CASSITERIDUM IN SCILLY
ISLANDS, GREAT BRITAIN*

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by A. FAIN** and F.S. LUKOSCHUS***

Abstract : *Thyreophagus vermicularis* sp. n. (Acari, Acaridae) is described from a shrew *Crocidura suaveolens cassiteridum* from Scilly Is., Great Britain.

We describe here a new species of *Thyreophagus*, *T. vermicularis* n. sp. characterized in the female by the strongly elongate shape of the body and the small length of the legs.

***Thyreophagus vermicularis* sp. n.**

Only the female is known.

Female : (figs. 1-8) Idiosoma in the holotype 510 μ long and 140 μ wide (ratio length : width = 3,64 : 1). The paratype is incomplete. *Dorsum* : Sejugal furrow poorly developed. Cuticle not striated, bare, except on propodonotum which bears a rounded punctate plate. *Venter* : Epimeres I fused in a Y, other epimeres free. Epigynium small. Anus terminal. Bursa very narrow, 70 μ long with proximal end forming a small sclerite ; its distal opening is dorsal and situated at 25 μ from posterior extremity.

Chaetotaxy of idiosoma : *vi* about 25 μ ; *s cx* 15 μ ; *sc e* 100 μ ; *l 1* 35-40 μ ; *l 2* 30-40 μ ; *l 3* 40-50 μ ; *l 5* 50-60 μ ; *d 4* and *d 5* 50-60 μ ; *a i* 35 μ ; the following setae are lacking : *v e*, *sc i*, *d 1*, *d 2*, *d 3*, *a 2* *toa 5*, *b*, *sh*, *l 4*.

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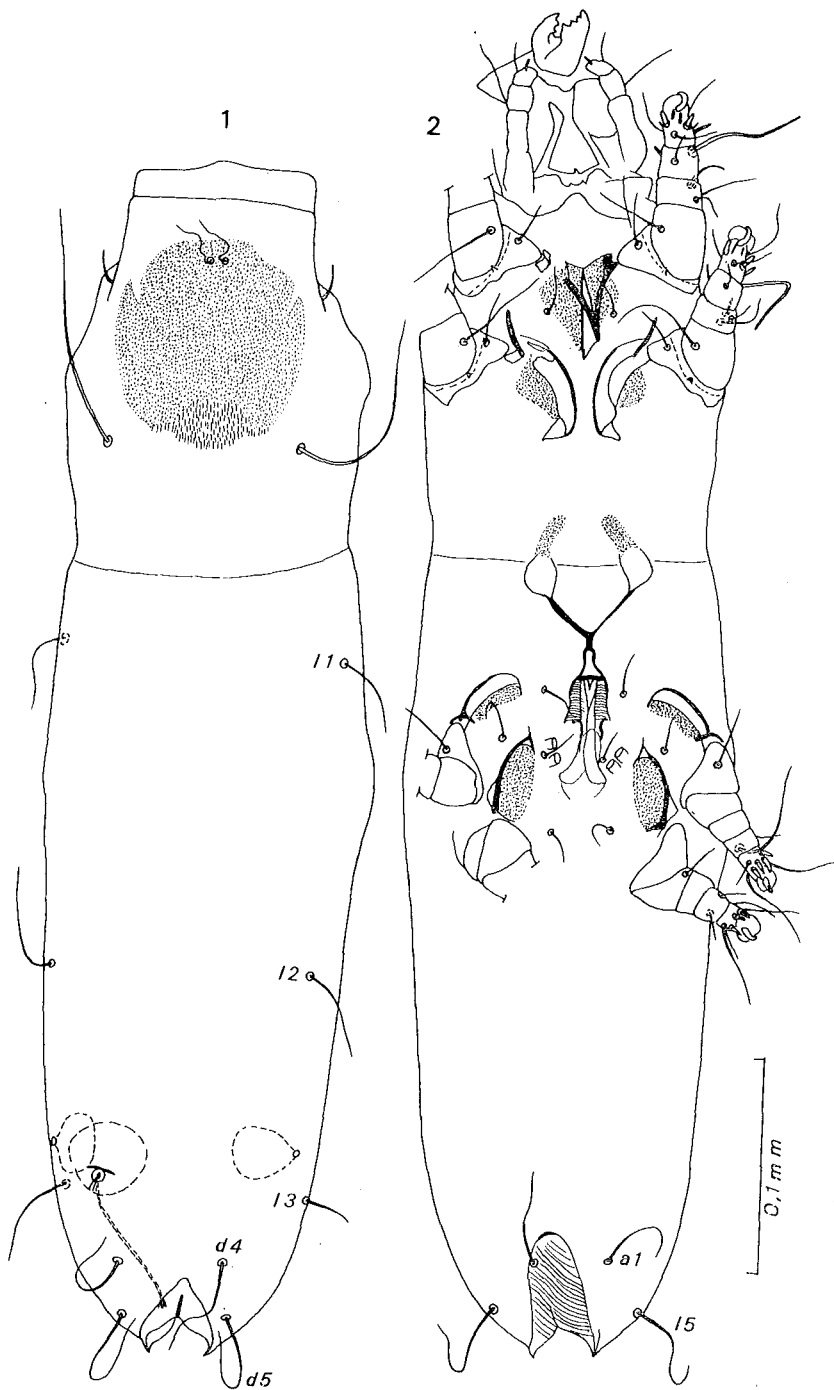


FIG. 1-2. — *Thyreophagus vermicularis* sp. n. Female holotype in dorsal (1) and ventral view (2).

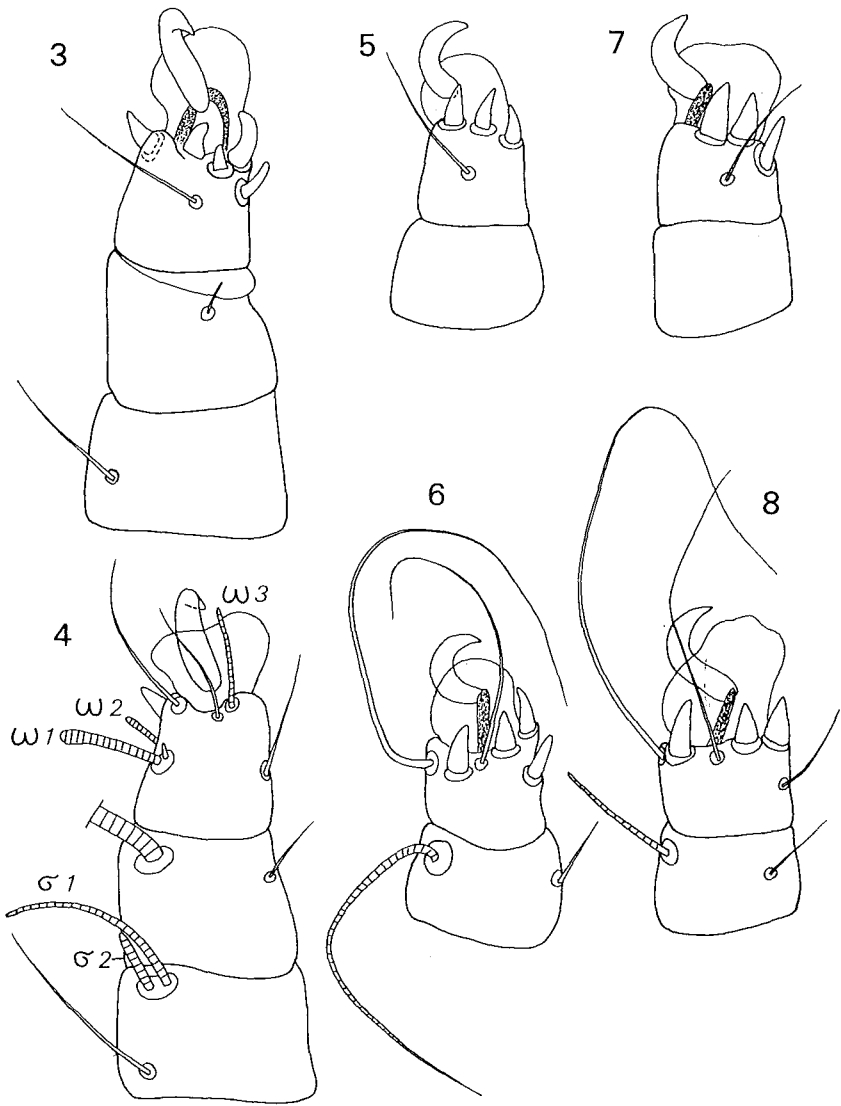


FIG. 3-8. — *Thyreophagus vermicularis* sp.n. Apical segments of legs in posteroventral view (above) and in antero-dorsal view (below): left leg I (3, 4); leg III (5,6); leg IV (7,8)

Legs : short ; tarsi I-II as wide as long (15 μ , ambulacrum not included) ; tarsi III-IV 11-12 μ long and 12 μ wide. All tarsi end into a rather thick but short claw, whose basal half is surrounded by a fleshy pretarsus. *Chaetotaxy* : tarsi I-II with short but well-developed spines (3 ventro-apical, 1 ventro-preapical, 1 dorso-apical) and 3 thin setae ; tarsi III with 7 thick spines and 3 thin setae, of which 2 long ; tarsi IV with 6 thick spines and 4 thin setae of which 2 long.

Solenidiotaxy : Tarsus I : ω 3 13 μ long, with apex slightly bulbous ; ω 2 more apical, thinner and 5 μ long ; ω 3 apical, 9-10 μ long ; tarsus II with a thick ω 1, 8-9 μ long. Tibiae I to III with relatively very long solenidia, the tibial III is 45-50 μ long, the tibial IV is much shorter (about 15 μ). Genu I with two very unequal solenidia, *sigma* 1 is 19-21 μ long, *sigma* 2 is 6,5-7 μ long. Genu II with one very short solenidion (2,5 to 3 μ).

Habitat : Holotype and one paratype from the fur of a shrew, *Crocidura suaveolens cassiteridum*, from St. Mary's I. of Scilly Is., Great Britain, I.X. 1973 (Coll. F.S. Lukoschus). Holotype in British Museum (Natural History).

Remark : This new species is distinguished from *Thyreophagus entomophagus* (Laboulbène) and *Th. gallegoi* Portus et al. by the shape of the body, long and very narrow, the very short legs with tarsi as wide as long, and the shape of the bursa. It differs from *Th. corticalis* (Michael) by the smaller size of the body and the much more unequal lengths of the solenidia of genu I.

Bibliographie

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