

ACARI DOMUM MELIPONINARUM BRASILIENSIVM
HABITANTES. VII. *EREYNETES (GYMNEREYNETES) MELIPONAE*
NOV. SPEC. (ACARI, EREYNETIDAE)¹

CARLOS H. W. FLECHTMANN

Univ. S. Paulo, ESALQ, Depto. Zoologia, 13400 Piracicaba, SP

ALEX FAIN

Institut de Medecine Tropicale "Prins Leopold", Antwerpen, Bélgica

MARIA DO CARMO A. LEAL

Univ. Federal de Pernambuco, Depto. Biologia Geral, 50.000 Recife, Pernambuco

(With 8 text-figures)

Ereynetes (Gymnereynetes) meliponae nov. spec.
(Figs. 1 - 8)

Female: Body and legs weekly sclerotized. Dorsal shield vestigial, represented by an area between the setae *ve* and *di* where the cuticular striae are barely discernible and two faint, dark, longitudinal irregular lines, as figured. Posterior sensillae (*1+*) (115 to 136 μm) slightly longer than anterior sensillae (*sci*) (112-119 μm). Dorsal idiosomal setae cylindrical, apically pointed, barbed. Setae *vi* about twice as long as *ve*. All ventral setae distinctly expanded apically. There are 10 pairs of setae in the genital area, 5 internals and 5 externals. Internal coxal setae (*ic*₁) situated on the internal part of coxae I; intercoxal setae 2 absent. Gnathosoma: palps with 4 free segments; 2 pairs of ventral setae on anterior part of gnathosomal base. Chelicerae with a well developed movable digit.

Leg chaetotaxy, from coxae to tarsi:

I- 2 - 1 - 6 - 4 - 5 + s - 12 + 1
II- 1 - 1 - 4 - 4 - 3 - 9
III- 3 - 1 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 8
IV- 2 - 0 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 8

The satellite seta (s) of the "ereynetal organ", situated on tibia I, thin, narrowly barbed and very long (47 μm), as long as normal seta on the segment and placed on the same basis, together with a normal seta.

Male: not seen.

The idiosoma of the holotype female, which bears no egg, is 553 μm long and 325 μm wide; measurements of paratype females are: one specimen without egg 533 x 312 μm ; two specimens with one egg 546 x 325 μm and 585 x 390 μm ; and, 5 specimens, each with two eggs: 546 x 325 μm , 559 x 338 μm , 559 x 351 μm , 572 x 364 μm and 572 x 377 μm .

In females bearing two eggs one of them always contains a well developed larva enclosed in the prelarva (or deutovum) which is reduced to a membrane showing a sclerotized structure serving as an ecdysing organ. The other egg contains only the prelarva (see Fain, 1972).

Habitat: The mites were collected from the nest of a stingless bee, *Melipona scutellaris* Latreille (Insecta, Hymenoptera, Apidae: Meliponinae), at Recife, Pernambuco, Brasil, by Dr. Maria do Carmo A. Leal, April 1983.

Holotype and 6 paratypes, on 6 microscopic preparations, n° 1477, at the Dept. of Zoology, Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz", University of São Paulo, Piracicaba, SP, Brasil; 2 paratypes, on one microscopic preparation, send to Dr. A. Fain, Belgium.

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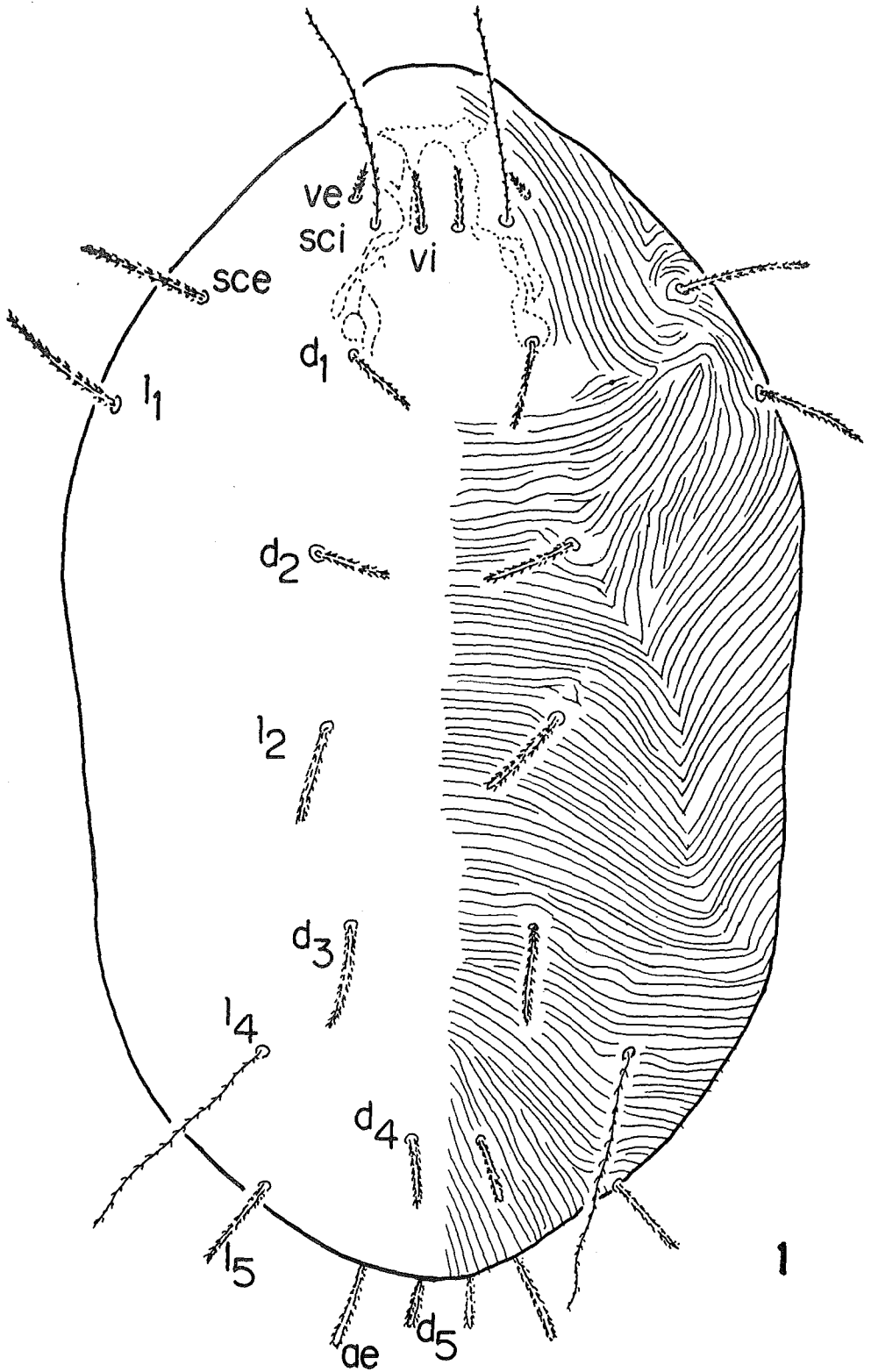


Fig. 1 - *Erynetes (G.) meliponae* n. sp. Female, dorsum.

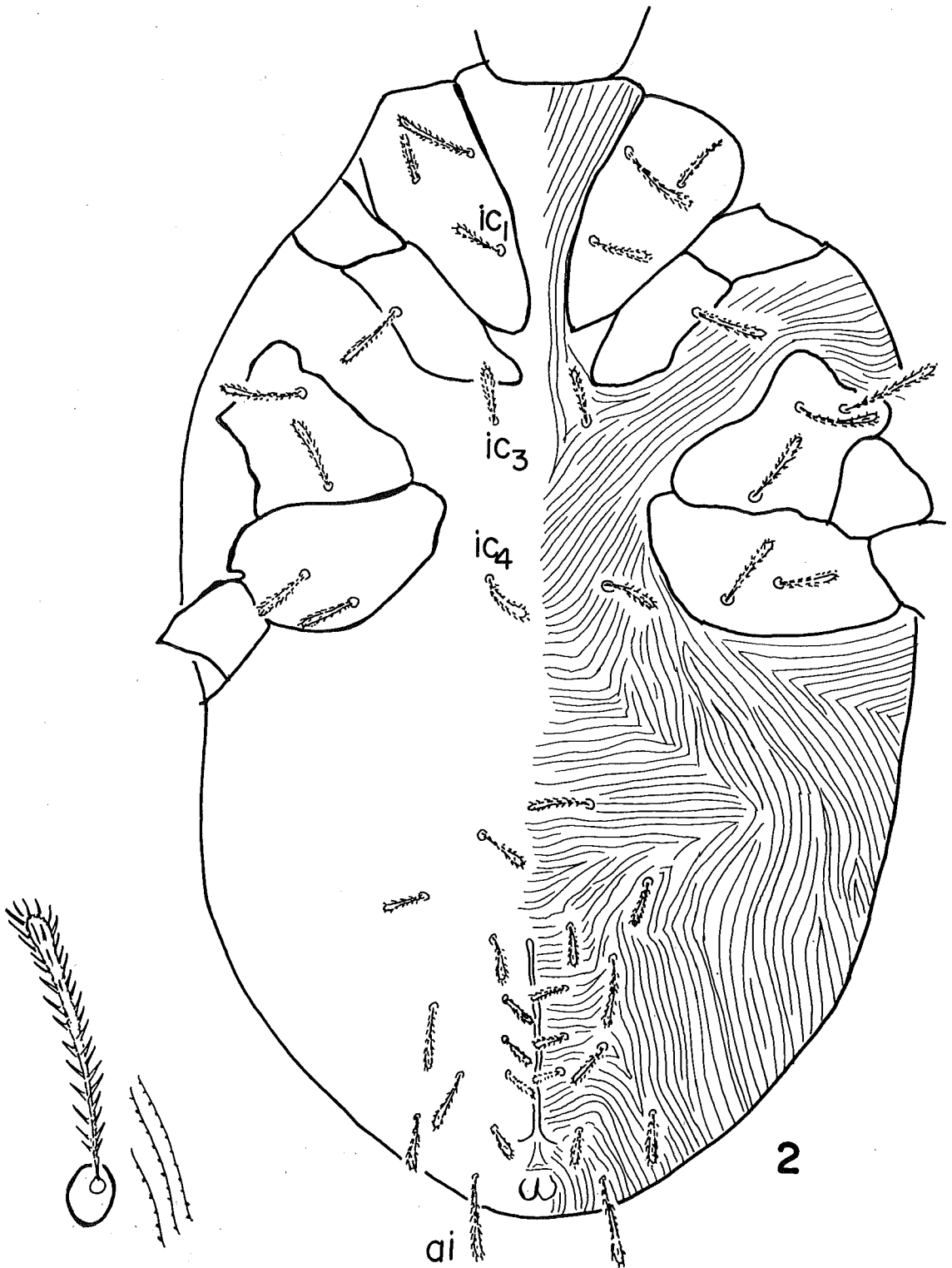
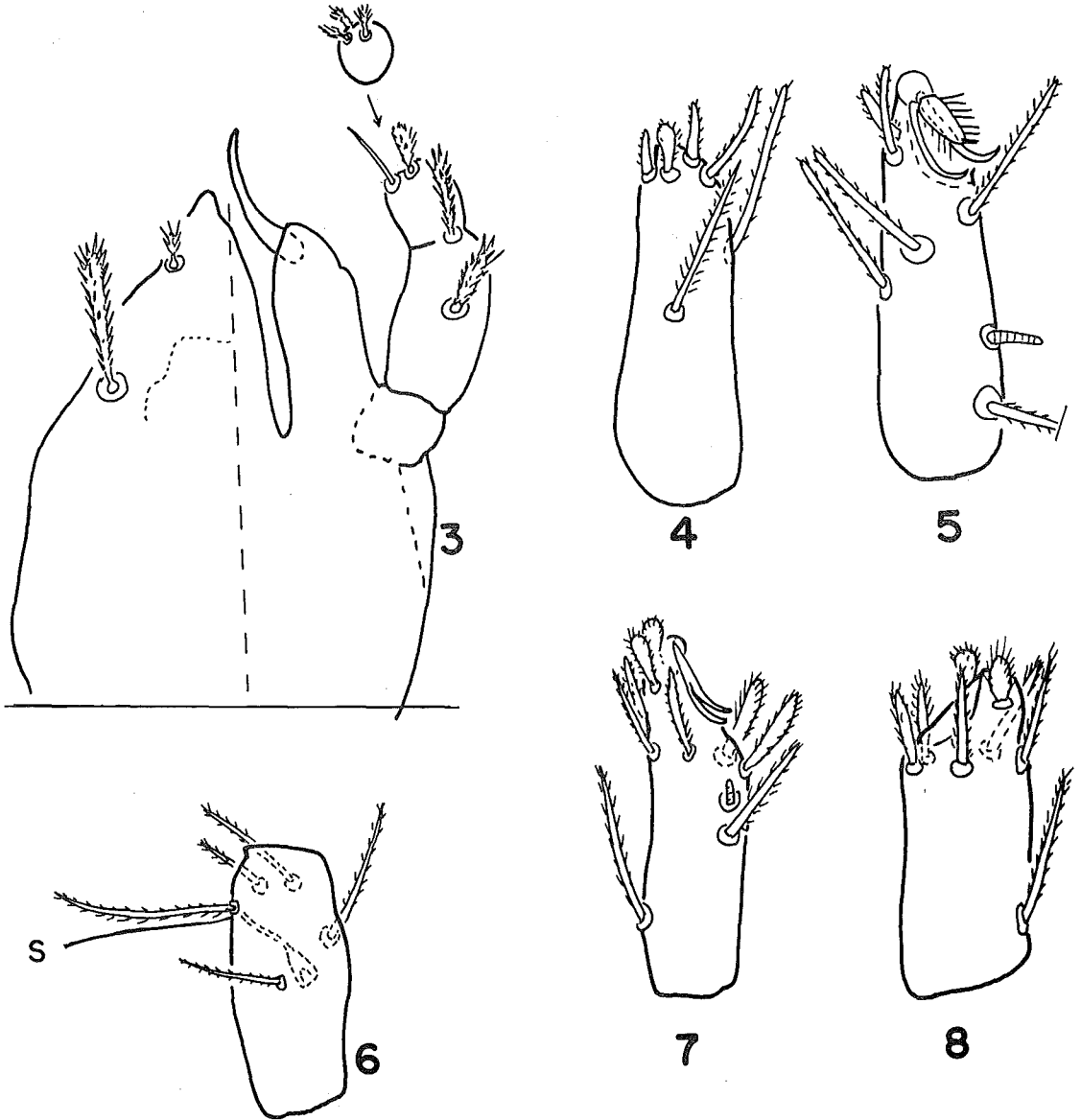


Fig. 2 - *Ereynetes (G.) meliponae* n. sp. Female, ventral.



Figs. 3 - 8 - *Ereynetes (G.) meliponae* n. sp. 3 - Gnathosoma left side, dorsal view; right, ventral view; palp tarsus separate; 4 - Tarsus I, ventrolateral aspect; 5 - Tarsus I, dorsolateral aspect; 6 - Tibia I view; 7 - Tarsus II view; 8 - Tarsus III view.

We follow herein the setal nomenclature proposed by Fain (1973).

Diagnosis: The most characteristic features of this new species are:

1. The length of the satellite seta of the "ereynetal organ" of tibia I. This seta is as long as the normal seta to which it is associated. It is shortly barbed and not dilated at the apex.

2. The shape of the ventral setae, slightly dilated at their apex.

3. The very poor development of the network pattern on the coxae, the gnathosoma and the legs.

4. The basal situation of the solenidion of tarsus I (in the basal half of the tarsus).

5. Great size of body; it is the largest species (533 to 585 μm long) in the genus (the length of the other species varies from 210 to 350 μm).

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