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OVANOETUS WAUTERSI N.G., N.SP. (ACARI, ANOETIDAE) A NEW HYPOPUS FROM *COENOBITA CLYPEATA* FROM GRENADINES ISLANDS

by

A. FAIN and J. L. VAN GOETHEM
Institut royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique
rue Vautier 29, 1040 Bruxelles (Belgique)

ABSTRACT

Ovanoetus wautersi n.g., n.sp. is described from the hypopial stage. It was found on the Hermit Crab *Coenobita clypeata*, from The Grenadines Islands.

Key-words : Acari, Anoetidae, *Ovanoetus*, Hypopus,

Ovanoetus wautersi n.g., n.sp. (Acari, Anoetidae)
un nouvel hypope de *Coenobita clypeata* des Iles Grenadines

RÉSUMÉ

Ovanoetus wautersi n.g., n.sp. est décrit de sa forme hypope. Celle-ci fut découverte sur des spécimens vivants du bernard-l'ermite *Coenobita clypeata* en provenance des Iles Grenadines, dans les Petites Antilles.

FAMILY ANOETIDAE (*)

Genus *Ovanoetus* nov. gen.

Definition : Only the hypopial stage (heteromorphic deutonymph) is known. Body broadly ovoid, poorly sclerotized. Sejugal furrow well developed. All the epimeres very poorly sclerotized and fused in the midline to a poorly sclerotised longitudinal median sclerite. Suctorial plate almost as wide as long with posterior suckers larger than anterior suckers. Palposoma thick, slightly longer than wide. Legs narrow. Tarsi I and II with an apical claw and a long subapical foliate seta. Tarsi III and IV with a very short almost vestigial and straight claw and a long subapical seta. Solenidion ω1 of leg I situated on the tibia, close to the *phi I*. The *ω3* is small and situated on tarsus I close to its base.

Type species : Ovanoetus wautersi n. sp.

(*) See HUGHES and JACKSON (1958), SCHEUCHER (1957).

Ovanoetus wautersi nov. spec.

Hypopus (Fig. 1-2) : Length and width of the holotype 270 μm × 225 μm; in six paratypes : 273 × 222 μm, 267 × 225 μm, 261 × 204 μm, 255 × 195 μm, 240 × 180 μm, 219 × 165 μm. Dorsum without distinct shields. Venter : Palposoma ventral, 18 μm long and 12 μm wide bearing a pair of solenidia *alpha* and a pair of thin and short setae. Suctorial plate 75 μm long and 80 μm wide. Posterior suckers oval, distinctly larger than anterior ones. The lateral conoids situated at

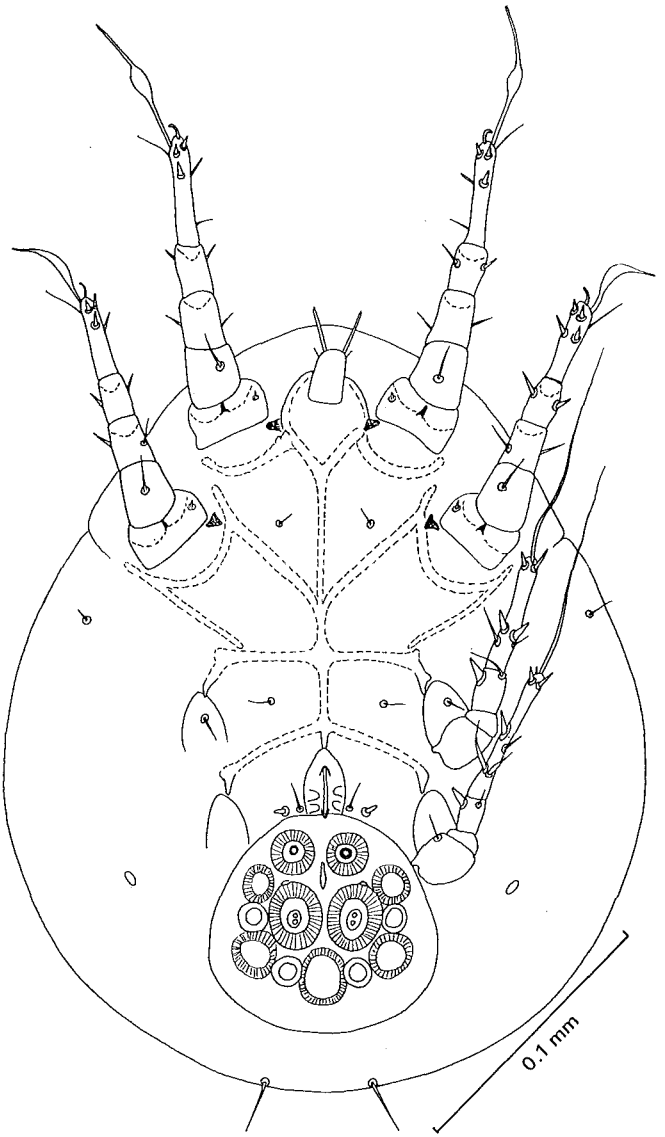

Fig. 1. — *Ovanoetus wautersi* n.sp. Hypopus in ventral view.

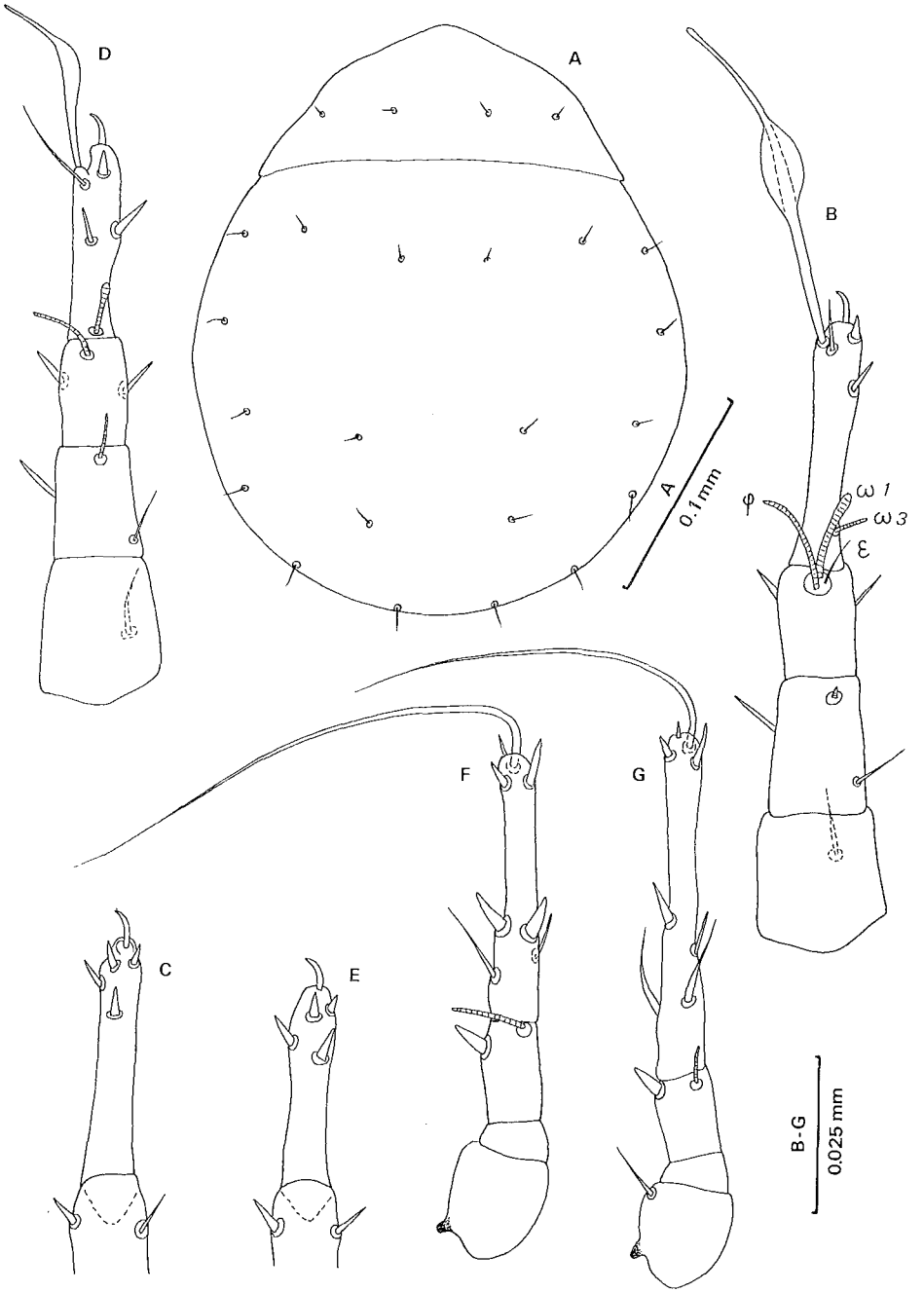

Fig. 2. — A-G : *Ovanoetus wautersi* n.sp. Hypopus : A, in dorsal view; B, leg I dorsally; C, tarsus I ventrally; D, leg II dorsally; E, tarsus II ventrally; F, leg III dorsally; G, leg IV dorsally.

the same level as the posterior suckers. Legs narrow and relatively short. Tarsus I bearing a long subapical seta only foliate in its median part. Tarsus II with a completely foliate subapical seta. Tarsi III and IV with a long subapical non foliate seta. *Chaetotaxy* : Idiosoma : All the dorsal setae very short and thin. Setae *sc i* and *sc e* situated on an almost straight transverse line. Are present : *d 1* to *d 5*, *l 1* to *l 4*, *h*. Ventral setae : *sh*, *l 5*, *cx I* and *cx III* very short and thin, *gp* short, cylindrical, *gm* thin and short : the *ga* are lacking. Legs (number of setae) : Tarsi 8-9-7-7; Tibiae 2-2-1-1.

Host and locality : Holotype and 20 paratypes, all hypopi, from *Coenobita clypeata* (HERBST), from St Vincent Republic, Grenadines Isl., Bequia Id. (Windward group), 17 March 1980 (Coll. G. WAUTERS and J.V.G.). Holotype in the Institut royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, I.G. nº 26.103. These mites were associated with two species of Ewingiid mites : *Ewingia cenobitae* PEARSE and *Askinasia antillarum* FAIN *et al.* (see FAIN *et al.*, 1982).

Etymology

This new species honours Mr. G. WAUTERS, Temse.

REMARKS

So far hypopi of Anoetidae have not been recorded from the pagurid crab *Coenobita*. The new genus *Ovanoetus* presents a combination of characters which is not encountered in any other genus of Anoetidae. The most important are : the broad ovoid shape of the body, the piliform aspect of the coxal setae, the structure of the epimeres all fused to a median sclerite, the presence of well-formed claws only on the legs I and II and the absence of dorsal shields.

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