

The identity of
Rhytoglyphus indicus Potter & Olsen, 1987
 (Acari)

by A. FAIN

= Cerophagus

Recently FAIN and HEARD (December 1987) described from adult and hypopial stages, a new species, *Cerophagus trigona* from the brood cells of an Australian wasp, *Trigona carbonaria*. It was the first time that the adults of this genus of mite were described. The three other species described so far in this genus are known only from their heteromorphic deutonymphs (= hypopi).

At the same time as our paper (December 1987) appeared the description of a new genus and species, *Rhytoglyphus indicus* POTTER & OLSEN. This species was found in food products imported in USA from India and Eastern Asia. As this species seemed to be very close to *C. trigona* we asked Mr R. SMILEY, US National Museum, to send us the types of *R. indicus* in order to compare them with our species. This comparative study has shown that *Rhytoglyphus* is not separable from *Cerophagus* and we propose therefore the following synonymy: *Cerophagus* OUDEMANS, 1905 = *Rhytoglyphus* POTTER & OLSEN, 1987, *syn. nov.*

As a matter of fact *Cerophagus trigona* is very close to *Cerophagus indicus* (POTTER & OLSEN, 1987), *comb. nov.* They differ, however, from each other by several characters, mainly the lengths of some solenidia and setae. We have summarized these differences in the following table.

Lengths of setae and solenidia in <i>C. indicus</i> and <i>C. trigona</i> (measurements in micrometers)		
	<i>Cerophagus indicus</i> (holotype female and allotype male)	<i>Cerophagus trigona</i> (in 5 paratypes)
FEMALE		
<i>Lengths of setae</i>		
sc e	22	21-22
sc i	63	28-34
d5	65	25-30
a4	42	18-21
a6	130	75-90
h	60	40-48
long preapical seta of tarsus II	75	40
of tarsus III	100	50
<i>Lengths of solenidia</i>		
ω 1	12	14
ω 3	26-27	17-18
φ I	117	70-78
φ II	95	70
σ 1 (axial)	12,5	15
σ 2 (antiaxial)	14,5	17-18
MALE		
<i>Lengths of setae</i>		
a3	80	39-43
d5	120	80-90
<i>Lengths of solenidia</i>		
ω 3	19	14-15
σ 1	12	14-15
σ 2	13	17-18

The three other species described in the genus *Cerophagus* are known only from their deutonymphal stage and were found on bees: *C. granulatus* (DUJARDIN, 1849), from *Bombus* spp. in Europe, *C. skorikovi* (ZACHVATKIN, 1941) from *Megachile döderleini* in Japan and *C. furcata* (FAIN, 1974) from *Bembix borrei* and *Megachile* sp. in Vietnam. It is possible that *C. indicus* represents the adult form of one of these species. Only the discovery of the hypopus stage of that species will answer this question. We thank Mr R. SMILEY for the sending of type material used in this study.

References

- FAIN, A. & HEARD, T. A., 1987. - Description and life cycle of *Cerophagus trigona* sp. n. (Acari, Acaridae), associated with the stingless bee *Trigona carbonaria* SMITH in Australia. *Bull. Inst. r. Sci. nat. Belg. Ent.* 57: 197-202.
- POTTER, R. W. & OLSEN, A. R., 1987. - Description of a mite *Rhypoglyphus indicus*, new genus, new species (Acari: Acaridae) found in foods from the Oriental Region. *Internat. J. Acarol.* 13: 271-275.
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