

A NEW SPECIES OF ORIBATID MITE FROM EGYPT (ACARI: BRACHYCHTHONIIDAE)

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Abstract

A new species, *Eobrachychthonius aegyptiacus* n.sp. (Acari: Brachychthoniidae) is described and illustrated. It is collected under the body of *Icerya seychellarum* (Westwood) (Homoptera: Margarodidae) from Sharkia Governorate, Egypt.

Key words: *Eobrachychthonius aegyptiacus*, Acari, Oribatida, Brachychthoniidae

INTRODUCTION

Oribatid mites are found in different habitats such as soil, debris, water and insect nests. Several researches on the taxonomy of oribatid mites was initiated by Popp (1960) who described some species and followed by Abd El Hamid (1965), El Badry and Nasr (1975), Bayoumi (1977) and Youssef and Nasr (1978-1979) who presented other species from Egypt. The species of genus *Eobrachychthonius* Jacot are distributed in the whole world, but there are many dubious species of uncertain position and several erroneous interpretations Balogh (1972) and (Balogh & Mahunka, 1983).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples of the mealy bug, *Icerya seychellarum* (Westwood) were collected from Sharkia Governorate. The oribatid mite was recorded from the body sternites of *I. seychellarum* and put in Nesbitt's solution for a few hours before mounted in Hoyer's medium. Mite was identified according to the terminology of Balogh and Mahunka (1983).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Eobrachychthonius aegyptiacus* n. sp.**

Adult female (Figs. 1-3)

Dark yellow when alive, length 497 μ including gnathosoma, breadth 322 μ at widest part.

Dorsum (Fig. 1)

Elliptical and flat; propodosomal margins without teeth; a longitudinal median furrow along insertion points of setae c_2 , c_p and d_2 .

Venter (Fig. 2)

A genital plate whole, not sub-divided. Rostral, lamellar and interlamellar seta not equal in length, seta (in) the longest while (le) the shortest. Interbothridial region with one large spot surrounded with punctated areae; notogaster smooth; dorsal setae finely barbed, setae c_1 , c_3 and d_1 the longest while setae ps_1 and ps_3 the shortest.

Legs (Figs. 3):

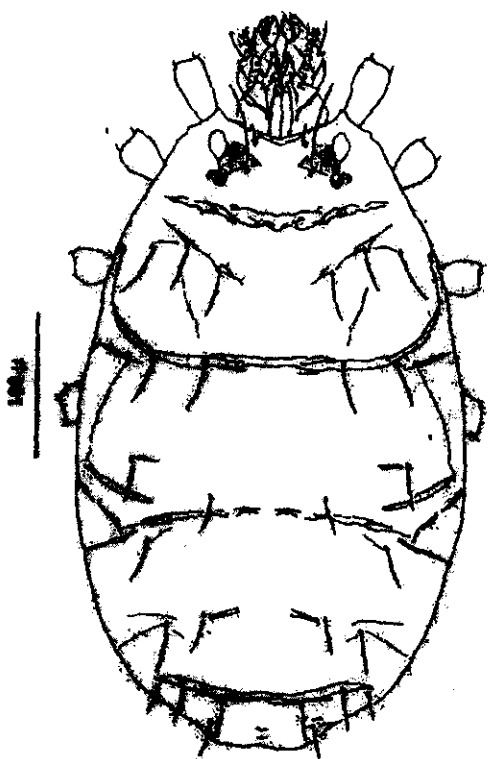
Legs I-IV as figured, with a long seta arising from tibiae I-IV each.

Remarks: The present species is close to *E. latior* (Berlese), but differs in the shape of sensillus; dorsal setae much longer and slightly barbed; rostral, lamellar and interlamellar setae not equal in length.

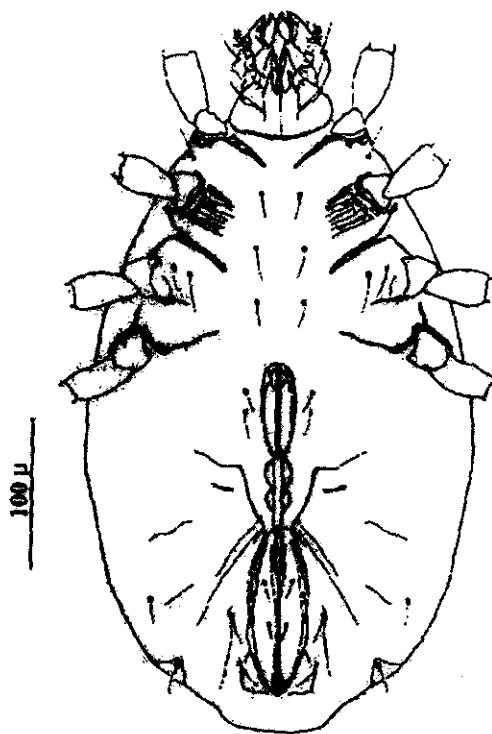
Holotype: One adult female collected from the body sternites of the mealy bug, *I. seychellarum* in Sharkia Governorate, Egypt, in December, 2004.

Paratypes: Several adult females with the same data of holotype.

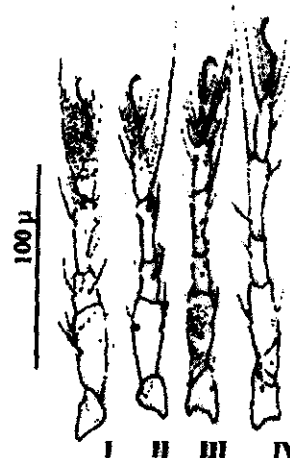
Allotype: No males were captured.



1



2



3

Figs. 1-3. *Eobrachychyichthonius aegyptiacus* n.sp., Female:

1-Dorsum, 2- Venter and 3- Legs I-IV, respectively.

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نوع جديد من الحلم الخنفي من مصر
(تحت رتبة الأكاروسات: فصيلة براشيشثوندي)

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سجل النوع الجديد *Eobrachychthonius aegyptiacus* التابع لفصيلة Brachychthoniidae
من تحت رتبة الحلم الخنفي Suborder Oribatida مرتبطا بإسترناات حشرة البق الدقيقي
(رتبة الحشرات متشابهة الأجنحة Order: Homoptera) *Icerya seychellarum* (Westwood)
محافظة الشرقية بجمهورية مصر العربية ، كما تم وصف و رسم الأنثى الكاملة لهذا النوع.