

Uropodina mites (Acari: Mesostigmata) from Mauritius

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Abstract – Three Uropodina mites are reported from Mauritius, one of them is a known species (*Cyllibula magna* ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL et HIRSCHMANN, 1977), the other two, *Oplitis mauritiensis* sp. n. and *Trichouropoda caudata* sp. n. are described as new. With 11 figures.

Key words – Uropodina, new species, Mauritius.

INTRODUCTION

In my previous paper (KONTSCHÁN 2004) I published Uropodina mites from Comoro Islands, while this paper contains data about another Afrotropical island, Mauritius.

The Uropodina fauna of Mauritius – similar to most Afrotropical islands – is absolutely unknown (WISNIEWSKI 1993). The moss and soil samples from Mauritius were collected by Dr. TAMÁS PÓCS, the noted bryologist. Three Uropodina species were found in this material, one of them is already known, while the other two are new to science.

The identified specimens are deposited in alcohol in the Collections of Soil Zoology of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Cyllibula magna ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL et HIRSCHMANN, 1977 (Fig. 1)

Description – Length of idiosoma 940–1080 μm , width 780–890 μm . Shape oval, posterior margin rounded. Dorsal side: dorsal and marginal shields in front fused, with spiniform setae and without ornamentation. Ventral side (Fig. 1): all sternal and ventral setae smooth and setiform. Ornamentation on sternal and ventral shields lacking. Peritreme S shaped. Genital shield of female thick, scutiform, without process and ornamentation. Gnathosoma: corniculae horn-like, anterior part of laciniae with long hairs. Ventral side of gnathosoma with 4 pairs of coxal setae. C1 and C2, long,

smooth and setiform, C3 long and with short spines on margin, C4 short and distally serrated. Base of epistoma distally serrated, apical part with short hairs. Tritosternum and chelicera not clearly visible.

Material examined – Mauritius, Black River National Park, Upland climax forest on ridges NNE of Black River Gorges, from moss, at 640 m a.s.l., 17.03.1995. leg. T. Pócs.

Remarks – This species have been found only in Brazil (WISNIEWSKI & HIRSCHMANN 1993).

***Oplitis mauritiensis* sp. n.**

(Figs 2–5)

Diagnosis – Perigenital and praeanal line present. Peritrema fungiform. Three pairs of ventral setae. All dorsal, marginal and most of ventral setae setiform, dorsal setae longer than marginal setae.

Description – Female. Length of idiosoma 500–510 μm , width 490–500 μm . Shape oval, posterior margin rounded. Dorsal side (Fig. 2): all dorsal and marginal setae setiform, dorsal setae longer than marginal setae. Dorsal and marginal shields without ornamentation. Ventral side (Fig. 3): ventral shield with praeanal line. Sternal setae smooth and setiform, shorter than the ventral setae. Three pairs of ventral setae on anterior part of praeanal line smooth and setiform, on posterior part of praeanal line with two pairs of setiform setae and two pairs of T form setae. Ventral and sternal shields without ornamentation. Peritrema fungiform (Fig. 4). Genital shield situated between coxae 2 and 4 and large, wide, oval, without process and ornamentation. Perigenital line present. Gnatho-

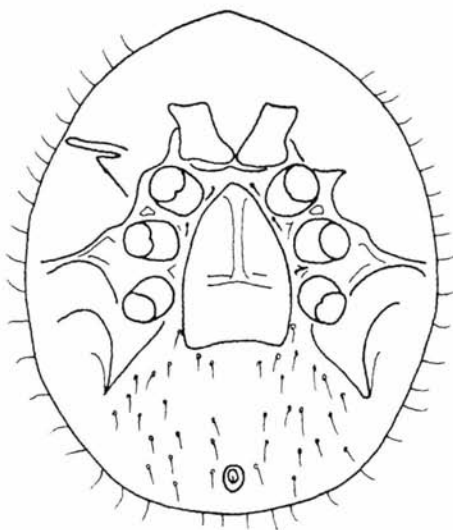
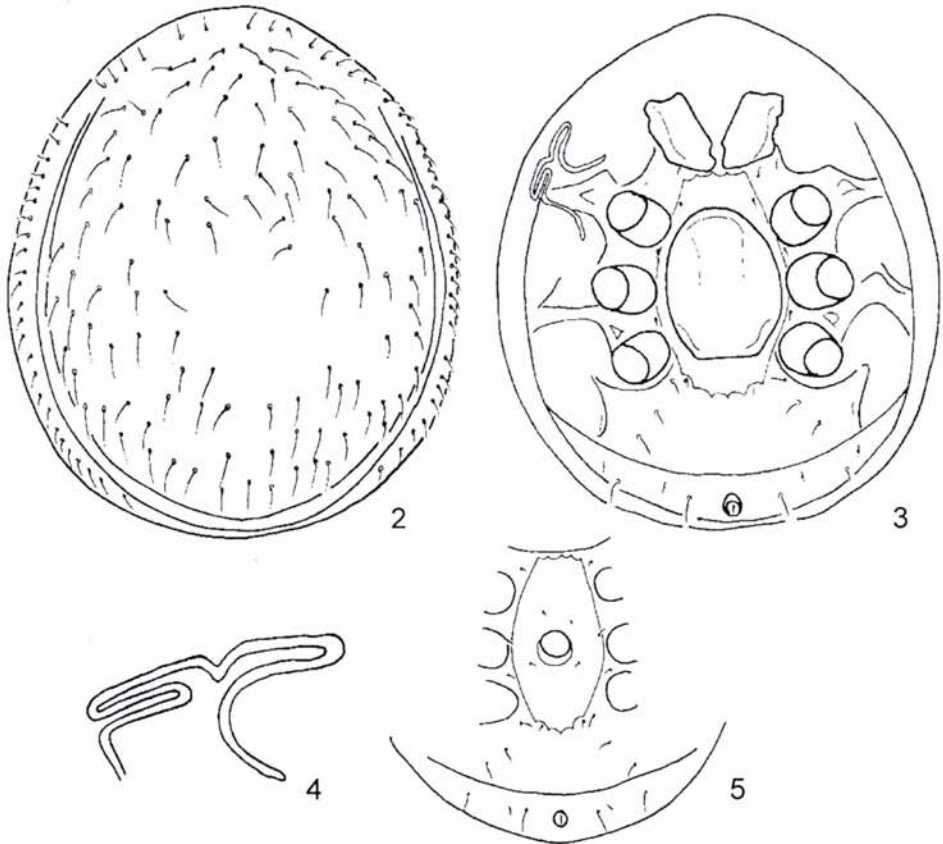


Fig. 1. *Cyllibula magna* ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL et HIRSCHMANN, 1977, ventral aspect

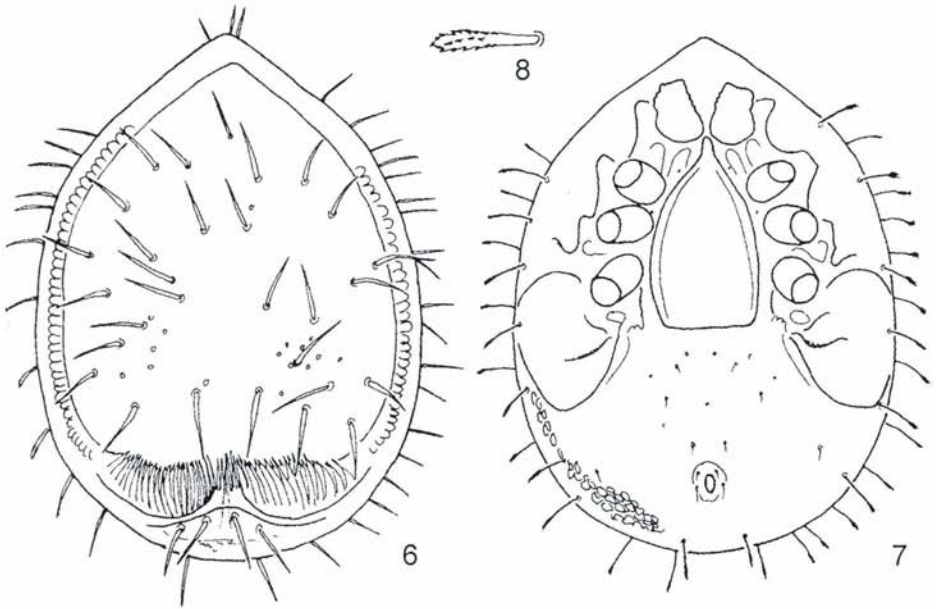
soma: corniculae horn-like, laciniae with long hairs. Ventral side of gnathosoma with 4 pairs of coxal setae. C1, C2, C3 and C4 long, setiform with serrated margin. Epistoma, tritosternum and chelicera not clearly visible. Male. Length of idiosoma 430 μm , width 360 μm . Ventral and dorsal side similar to female, sternal shield with rounded genital shield, all sternal setae setiform and smooth, sternal shield without ornamentation, genital shield situated between coxae 3 (Fig. 5). Deuteronymph, protonymph and larva unknown.

Material examined – Holotype: female, “Mauritius, Ile au cerf (offshore island at the E coast), from moss, 19.03.1995. leg. T. PÓCS”. Paratypes : 3 females, 1 male, locality and date same as holotype. Other specimens: 2 females, Mauritius, Black River National Park, Upland climax forest on ridges NNE of Balck River Gorges, from moss, at 640 m a.s.l., 17.03.1995. leg. T. PÓCS.

Etymology – This species is named after the islands of its origin.

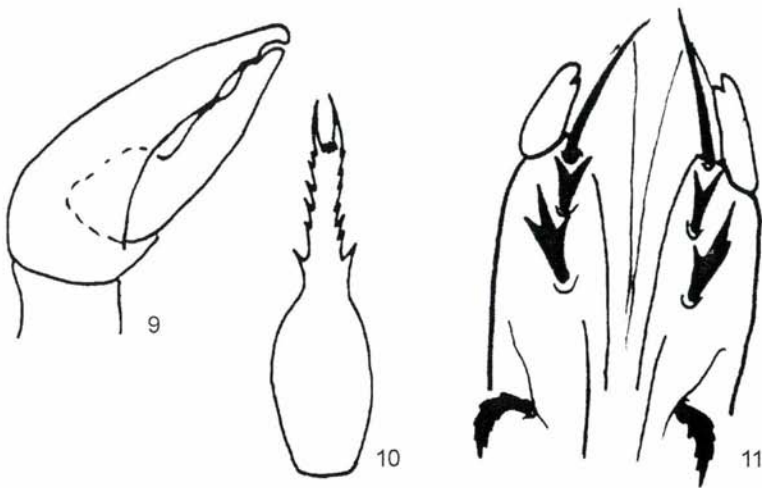


Figs 2–5. *Oplitis mauritiensis* sp. n.: 2 = dorsal aspect, 3 = ventral aspect of female, 4 = peritreme, 5 = ventral aspect of male



Figs 6–8. *Trichouropoda caudata* sp. n.: 6 = dorsal aspect, 7 = ventral aspect, 8 = marginal setae

Remarks – The new species is similar to the *Oplitis euchroeana* WISNIEWSKI et HIRSCHMANN, 1991. This species has only two pairs of V-setae, while the new one has 3 pairs of them.



Figs 9–11. *Trichouropoda caudata* sp. n.: 9 = gnathosoma, 10 = tritosternum, 11 = chelicera

Trichouropoda caudata sp. n.

(Figs 6–11)

Diagnosis – Dorsal and marginal setae long and spiniform. Caudal part of dorsal shield with a lot of long, wide setae. All setae on marginal part of ventral side plumose. Ventral setae short and setiform. Ornamentation of latero-caudal part of ventral shield rugose. Genital shield of female large, wide without ornamentation and with process.

Description – Female. Length of idiosoma 850–880 µm, width 640–680 µm. Shape oval, posterior margin rounded. Dorsal side (Fig. 6): dorsal shield with several long, smooth and spiniform setae. Caudal part of dorsal shield with a lot of wide, smooth spiniform setae. Two pairs of smooth setiform setae behind basis of wide spiniform setae. Foveolate ornamentation on dorsal shield. Scalloping between marginal and dorsal shields. Ventral side (Fig. 7): sternal setae not clearly visible. Sternal shield without ornamentation. All setae on marginal part of ventral side plumose (Fig. 8). Ventral setae short and setiform. Ornamentation of latero-caudal part of ventral shield rugose, the ornamentation of other part of ventral shield lacking. Anal setae short and setiform similar to ventral setae. Peritreme not clearly visible. Genital shield situated between coxae I and anterior part of metapodal line, large, wide and scutiform, without ornamentation and with thick process. Gnathosoma (Fig. 9): corniculae horn-like with a strong spine, laciniae not clearly visible. Ventral side of gnathosoma with 4 pairs of coxal setae. C1 long, smooth and setiform, C2 short, smooth and bifurcate, C3 short, smooth and trifurcate, central branch longer than other two, C4 short, serrated distally. Base of tritosternum narrow, without spines, laciniae serrated distally, with two short branches (Fig. 10). Epistoma long, distally serrated. Chelicera is shown in the Fig. 11. Male, deuteronymph, protonymph and larva unknown.

Material examined – Holotype: female, “Mauritius, Black River National Park, Upland climax forest on ridges NNE of Black River Gorges, from moss, at 640 m a.s.l., 17.03.1995. leg. T. Pócs”. Paratypes: 2 females, locality and date same as holotype. Other material: one female, Mauritius, Ile au cerf (offshore island at the E coast), from moss, 19.03.1995. leg. T. Pócs.

Etymology – This species is named after its setate caudal part.

Remarks – The caudal part of the new species is very characteristic; it is unlike any other *Trichouropoda* species.

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