

Data to the Oribatid fauna of Australia (Acari), I.

By

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Abstract. The description of 13 new Oribatid species from Queensland (Australia) is given. For one of the species a new genus (*Austrophthiracarus* gen. nov.) is erected.

The elaboration of the Oribatid fauna of Australia is under way based primarily on materials received from the Institutes of C. S. I. R. O. and various materials collected by the Hungarian Soil-zoological Expeditions and other Hungarian collectors in that country. Besides these large collections we have also received numerous, smaller quantities for identification especially from experts engaged in ecological research. Although these latter materials are at best only complementary in nature to the previously mentioned large materials, for various reasons we have to deal with them first since in many cases ecological or cenological papers are based on them mainly by Australian authors. In order to halt the unwanted proliferation of nomen nudum we decided to publish these new species well preceding the publication of our comprehensive work.

At this place we give the description of 13 new species collected mainly by Dr. R. DOMROW and his collaborators as well as by Miss C. PLOWMANN and Mr. G. MONTEITH. The authors like to thank them all for giving us the opportunity to study their valuable materials.

The holotypes of the following new species are deposited in the National Insect Collection, C. S. I. R. O., Canberra, Australia; while the paratypes are partly in the Arachnoidea Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest and partly in the first institute.

The examined materials originate from four localities. In view of shortage in space we give a list hereunder of the four localities, while under the descriptions only the reference letter and number combination is given.

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- AU-1: Australia, Queensland, wet sclerophyllous rain forest; Mt. Glorious 48.27 km northwest of Brisbane, leg. C. PLOWMANN.
- AU-2: Australia, Queensland, black rock, dry sclerophyllous country, about 18 km north of Lyndhurst Station on the Hughenden, leg. C. PLOWMANN.
- AU-3: Australia, leaf mould on clay, Sherrard Is., north Queensland, 13° S 143°36' E. 9. VI. 1956. E. N. MARKS coll.
- AU-4: Australia, Brisbane environs, leg. G. MONTEITH.

PHTHIRACARIDAE PERTY, 1841

Austrophthiracarus gen. nov.

Diagnosis: Aspis with four pairs of very short, smooth hairs, lamellar and interlamellar hairs very close to each other, situating almost in a transversal line. Strong notogastral neutrichy, 30–32 pairs of notogastral setae present. Nine pairs of genital and 8–10 pairs of anoanal hairs present, 2 pairs of latter in marginal position, though without any difference either in shape or size.

Type-species: *Austrophthiracarus radiatus* sp. nov.

Remarks: The above listed features are so widely different both from *Protophthiracarus* BALOGH, 1972 and *Neophthiracarus* BALOGH et CSISZÁR, 1963 that it was necessary to separate the new form on generic level. It seems quite probable that in the southern hemisphere the neutrichal Phthiracaroid forms include many new, yet undescribed species.

Austrophthiracarus radiatus sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–4)

Measurements. — Length of aspis: 267–293 μ ; length of notogaster: 462–571 μ ; height of notogaster: 292–340 μ .

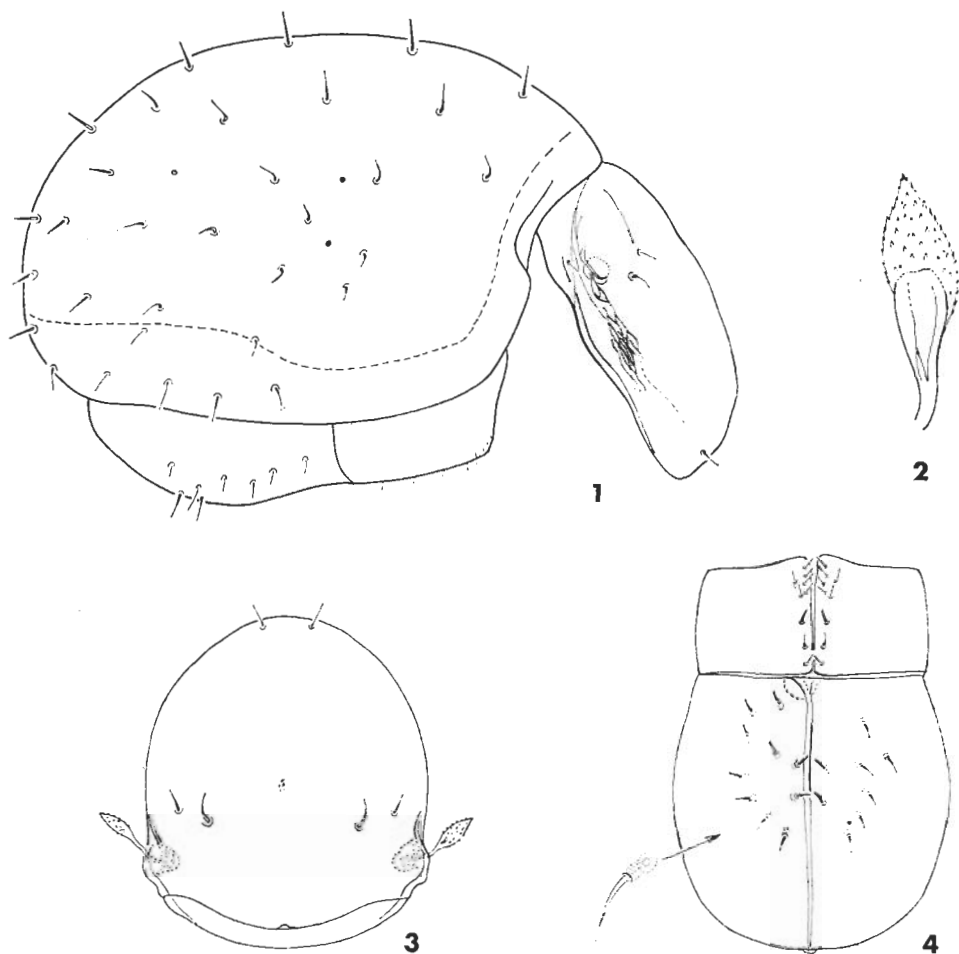
Aspis: In lateral view, approximately oblong in outline, in dorsal view ovoid (Fig. 3). Lateral surface with weak polygonal sculpture. Hairs at this place short, without any apparent difference in length among them. Sensillus (Fig. 2) also short, its club resembling a plum-seed, surface aciculate.

Notogaster: Elongate (Fig. 1), surface very finely punctured bearing, 30–32 pairs of hairs, all short and simple.

Anogenital region: 9 pairs of genital hairs arranged in two longitudinal rows, outer row beginning after anogenital suture comprising 5 hairs. Anal plate with characteristic semicircularly bent hairs (Fig. 4), numbering 8 to 10; even in one specimen this number may be different on the two plates. Hairs at base strikingly thickened.

Material examined: Holotypus and 2 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.

Remarks: The chaetotaxy of the new species readily differentiates the taxon from all other congeners.



Figs. 1-4. *Austrophthiracarus radiatus* gen. nov., sp. nov.

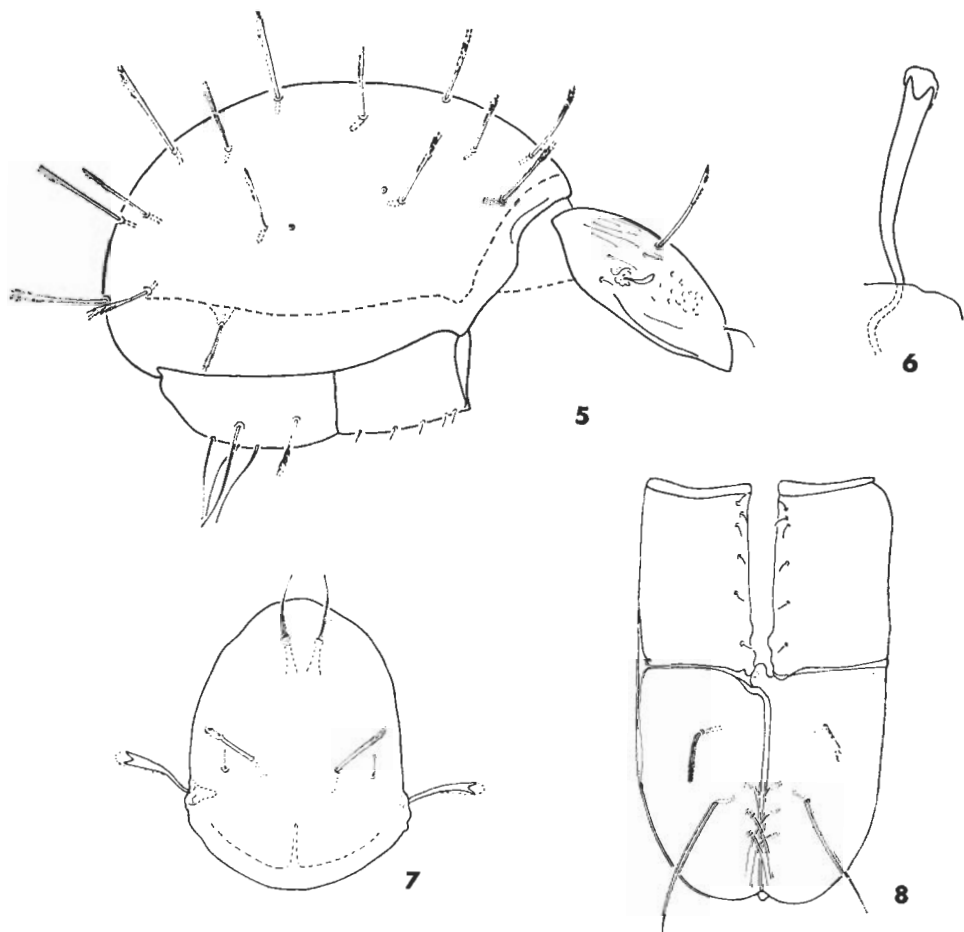
Hoplophorella queenslandica sp. nov.

(Figs. 5-8)

Measurements. — Length of aspis: 242–258 μ ; length of notogaster: 494–567 μ ; height of notogaster: 336–362 μ .

Aspis: In lateral view strongly narrowing towards rostrum, in dorsal view (Fig. 7) approximately ovoid in shape. Surface with foveolae, at base with weak, longitudinal creases. Hairs, excepting interlamellar pair, thin, short and smooth, latter rigid at tip heavily ciliate. Sensillus (Fig. 6) long, towards tip gradually, though only weakly thickened, club small, round.

Notogaster: All hairs straight, rigid, truncate, at tip with long cilia appearing brush-like (Fig. 5). Their lengths varying, shortest being p_4 , longest h_1 , p_1 and p_2 .

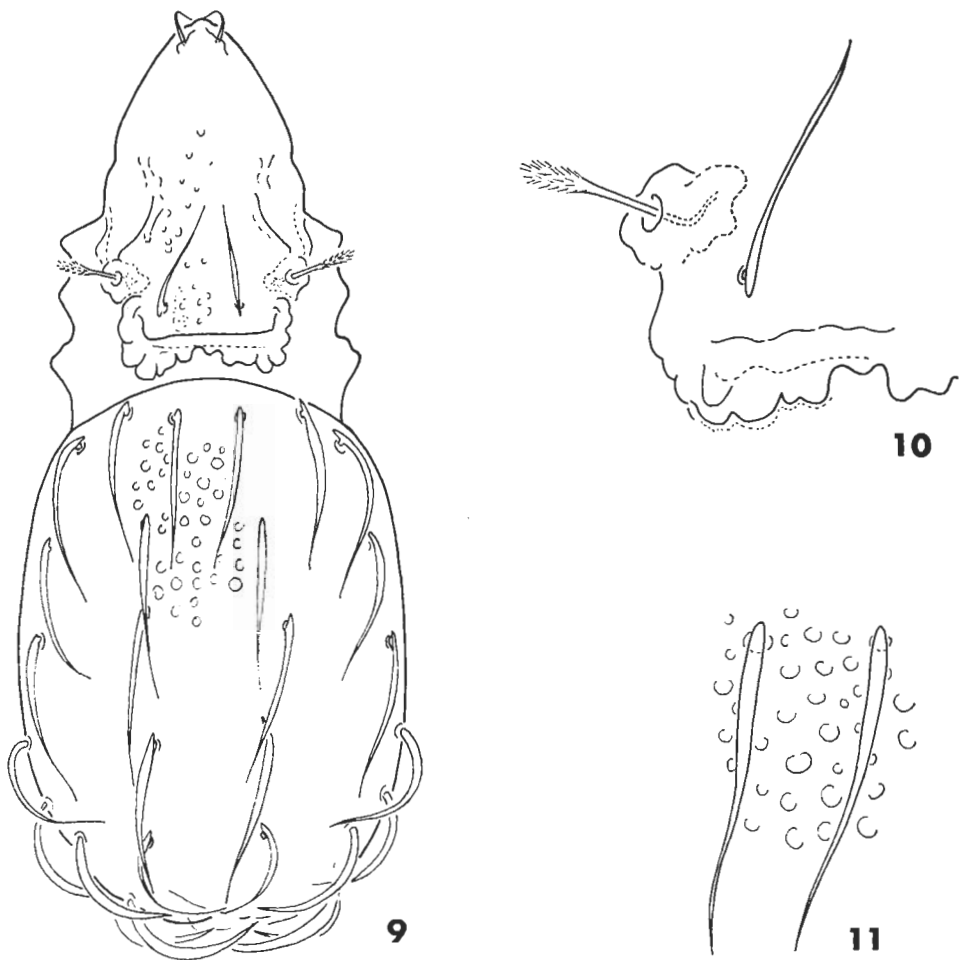


Figs. 5-8. *Hoplophorella queenslandica* sp. nov.

Anogenital region: Genital hairs minute, simple. On anal plate (Fig. 8) beside inner margin three pairs of similarly thin, simple hair originating, hairs ad_2 and ad_3 thicker, rigid and ciliate; latter much shorter than ad_2 .

Material examined: Holotypus and 6 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-3.

Remarks: This new species is in relation with *Hoplophorella singularis* SELLNICK, 1959 (Polynesia). A common feature for both species the presence of hair ad_1 situating behind hairs an_1 and an_2 at inner margin of anogenital plate, and of similar construction as latter two. Hair ad_2 originating farther and setiform, while ad_3 still farther off with strongly aciculated tip. The new species differs from *H. singularis* in the position of its notogastral setae and in the heavily ciliate tips of hairs.



Figs. 9–11. *Nanhermannia domrowi* sp. nov.

NANHERMANNIIDAE SELLNICK, 1928

Nanhermannia domrowi sp. nov.

(Figs. 9–11)

Measurements. — Length: 551–583 μ , width: 235–252 μ .

Prodorsum (Fig. 9): Lamellar hairs originating near rostrum but on prodorsal surface each sitting on a chitinized lath, they are bent and simple. Interlamellar hairs scythe-like, robust. Sensillus (Fig. 10) comparatively short, laterally scarcely extending beyond prodorsal margin, distal half ciliate. Posterior protuberances on prodorsum forming a transversal lath, on either side 5–6 papillae may be perceived. A short lath emitted from bothridium towards rostrum.

Notogaster: Surface adorned with irregularly set foveolae (Fig. 11) of various sizes. Hairs scythe-like, long, hair extending beyond basis of following hair.

Ventral side: Much resembling basic type of genus.

Material examined: Holotypus and 2 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-2.

To express our gratitude to Dr. R. DOMROW we name the new species after him; he is one of the leading organizers of soil-zoological research in Australia.

Remarks: The new species belongs the *Nanhermannia thaiensis* AOKI, 1965 species complex. This species-group may be characterized by the medially confluent posterior protuberances of the prodorsum and that they do not have longitudinal furrows among interlamellar setae. Among the species belonging in this group only *thaiensis* AOKI, 1965 has scythe-like interlamellar setae, but its notogastral setae are shorter: hair c_1 scarcely reaching over base of d_1 , while the same feature in *domrowi* sp. nov. it is much longer, reaching well beyond by about 1/3 of its length.

CARABODIDAE C. L. KOCH, 1837

Austrocarabodes agrissor sp. nov.

(Figs. 12-16)

Measurements: — Length: 450–540 μ , width: 194–252 μ .

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 12): Lamellae connected in front by a strong translamella, rostral hairs originating on two protuberances of latter, these hairs much resembling lamellar hairs (Fig. 14), wide, phylliform but much smaller and narrower than extremely wide interlamellar hairs situated in fore half of prodorsum. Basal half of interlamellar region somewhat excavated, frontal margin thickened. Sensillus thin, without thickened club, tip recurved.

Notogaster with polygonal sculpture comprising tubercles. Latter arranged along longitudinal medial line rather irregularly. Hairs long, narrow, resembling a willow-leaf (Fig. 15) with a median rib. Two pairs of notogastral hairs on frontal margin rigid and pointing forward (Fig. 17).

Ventral aspect (Fig. 13): Body heavily chitinized. Apodemes and pedotecta robust, anogenital region with similarly robust laths. Hairs 1a, 2a and 3a minute other epimeral hairs long, all thin. Four pairs of genital, 1 pair of aggenital, 2 pairs of anal hairs thin and long: 3 pairs of adanal hairs somewhat broadened, narrow phylliform; ad_3 is preanal position.

Material examined: Holotypus and 9 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.

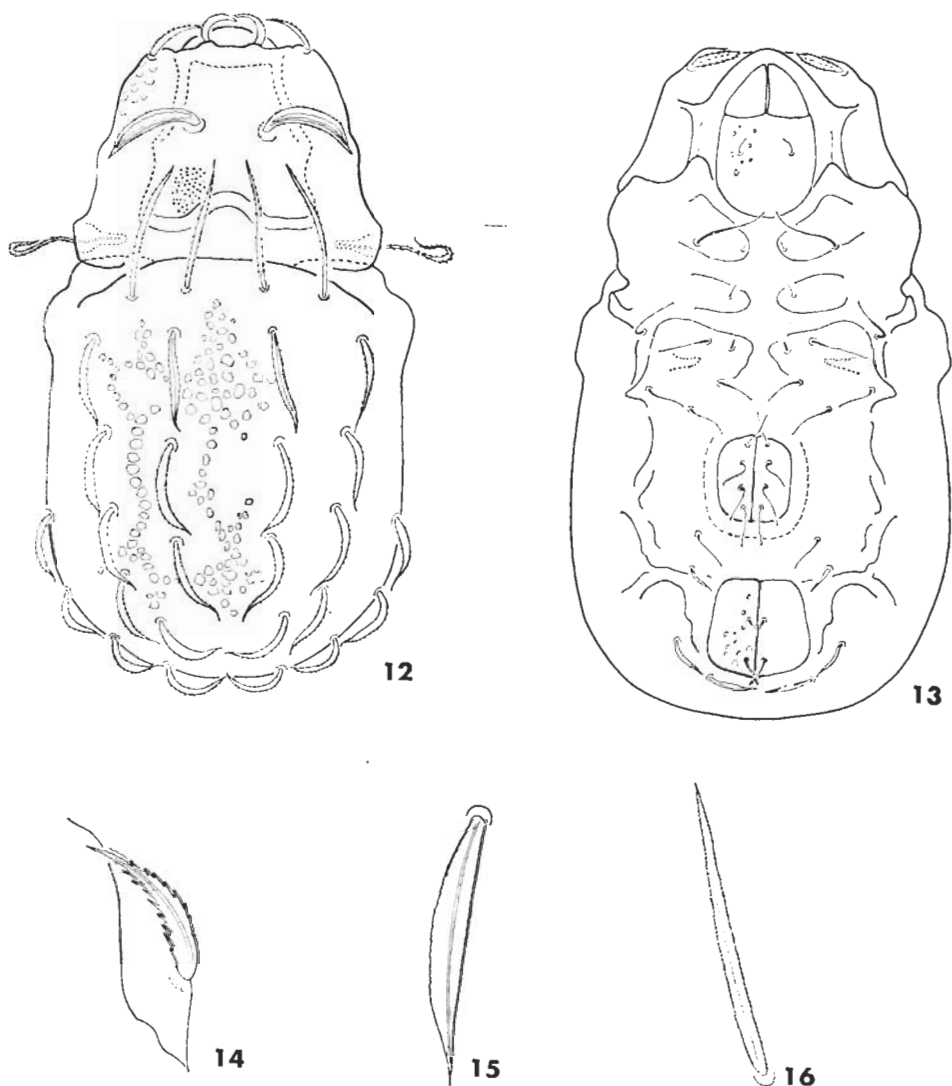
Remarks: The characteristic features for separation are given after the description of the following species.

Austrocarabodes gressitti sp. nov.

(Fig. 17-21)

Measurements. — Length: 543–705 μ , width: 275–381 μ .

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 17): Rostral hairs (Fig. 21) narrower and less ciliate than lamellar hairs. Interlamellar hairs emitted in fore half of prodorsum. Basal por-

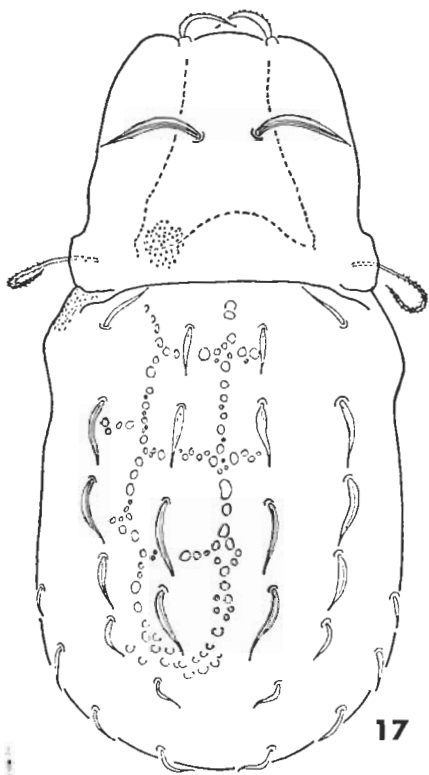


Figs. 12–16. *Austrocarabodes agressor* sp. nov.

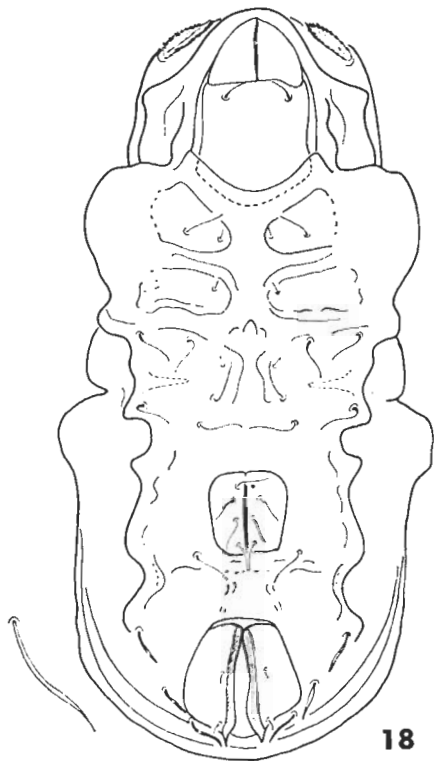
tion of interlamellar region weakly concave. Sensillus (Fig. 19) throughout narrow, not thickened, but strongly recurving back.

Surface of notogaster beset with tubercles forming a polygonal structure, components broad, oblong or almost quadrangular in shape. Notogastral hairs phylliform, significant length differences existing among them. Margin weakly dentate, inside a longitudinal "rib" (Fig. 20) present.

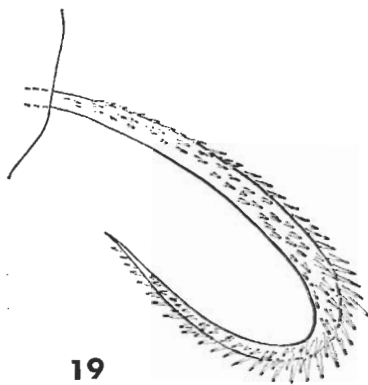
Ventral aspect (Fig. 18): chitinization weaker than in previous species, otherwise very similar to former. Position of genital and aggenital hairs different, hair ad_3 situated far laterally, at some distance from hairs ag and ad_2 .



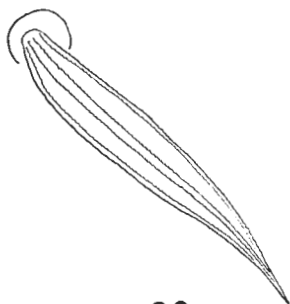
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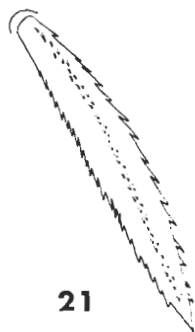
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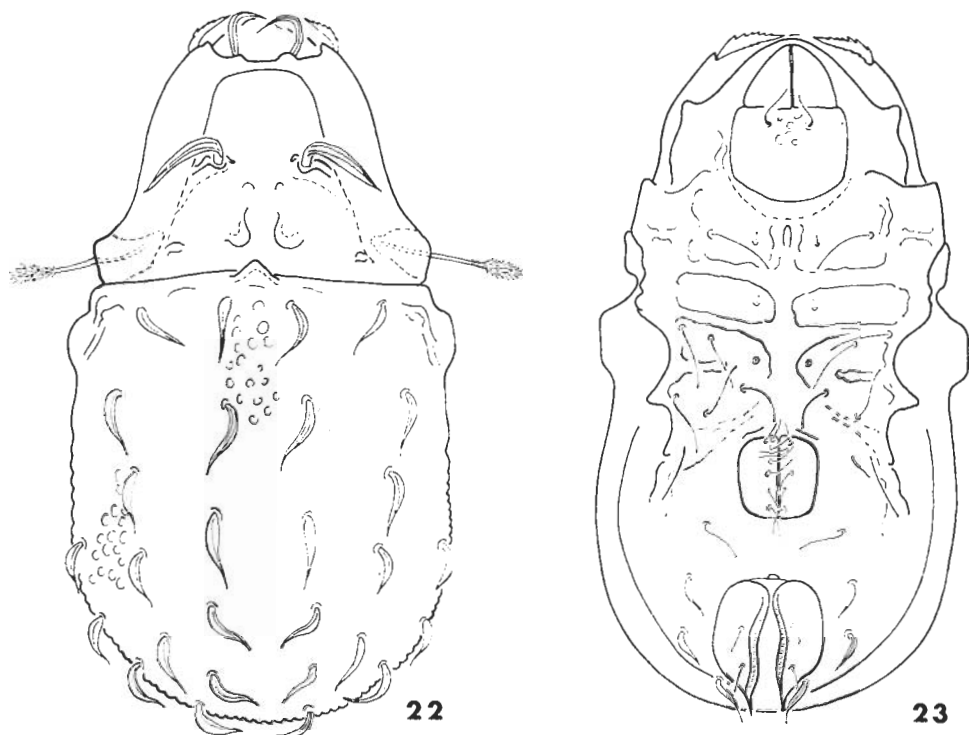


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Figs. 17 - 21. *Austrocarabodes gressitti* sp. nov.

Material examined: Holotypus and 4 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.

Remarks: So far only one *Austrocarabodes* HAMMER, 1966 species was known having polygonal tuberculate sculpture, long, arcuate knife - or willow-leaf-like notogastral setae: *A. ensifer* SELLNICK, 1931 (Ioni Is.). This species has setiform ad_3 , the other two phylliform similar to ag_1 and ag_2 . Distance between geni-



Figs. 22 – 23. *Austrocarabodes polytrichus* sp. nov.

tal and anal plates in ensifer is twice the length of genital plate, in the above two species the same is equal or shorter. The species *agressor* may be separated from *gresitti* by the long, forward pointing c_1 and c_2 hairs.

The new species is dedicated to Dr. J. L. GRESSITT (Honolulu, USA) who had much supported the work of Hungarian soil zoologists.

Austrocarabodes polytrichus sp. nov.

(Figs. 22 – 23)

Measurements. — Length: 527 – 612 μ , width: 300 – 348 μ .

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 21): Lamellae connected with well developed transversal lath, rostral hairs emitted on it or on tubercles sitting on latter. Rostral hairs resembling lamellar ones: phylliform, though latter with serrate margin, while former smooth. Interlamellar hairs originating on chitinized thickening at front margin of basal half of prodorsum, hairs pointing forwards in an oblique fashion. Sensillus straight, rigid, towards their end weakly clavate, here heavily ciliate.

Notogaster with its frontal margin, opposite tubercles of interlamellar region, in the middle a single tubercle present. Notogastral surface with tiny papillae. Hairs willow-leak-like, bent.

Ventral aspect (Fig. 22): Great difference existing in length of epimeral setae. Hairs 1a, 2a and 3a minute, rest long. 6 genital (exceptionally 7), 1 aggeni-

tal, 2 anal and 3 pairs of adanal hairs present. Adanal hairs broadening phylliform, others thin, simple.

Material examined: Holotypus and 2 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.

Remarks: One of the species-groups of *Austrocarabodes* is characterized by 14 pairs of narrow, willow-leaf-like notogastral setae; interlamellar hair similar situated at half length of prodorsum; notogaster covered with scattered, densely set tubercles. The new species may be separated from the other species of the species-group by the following combination of features:

1. 6 pairs of genital setae.
2. Frontal margin of notogaster with chitinized protuberance, opposite it on prodorsum a double-peaked prominence like in *enantiophis*.

Carabodes strinovichi sp. nov.

(Figs. 24-27)

Measurements. — Length: 360-368 μ , width: 164-172 μ

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 24): Lamellae narrow, running far from one another. Rostral and lamellar hairs thin, setiform. Interlamellar hairs rising on basal half of prodorsum, shaped like a broad spatule. Sensillus (Fig. 26) with thin petiole, club thick. 10 pairs of suddenly broadening, though short, spatulate notogastral hairs (Fig. 27) present. Notogaster adorned with tubercles.

Ventral aspect (Fig. 25): Very weakly chitinized. Hairs thin, short, simple. 4 pairs of genital, 2 pairs of anal and 3 pairs of adanal hairs present. Aggenital pair of hairs reduced, sometimes scarcely distinguishable, present only as faint insertion points. Hair ad_3 in preanal position. Anogenital region with creases comprising tubercles.

Material examined: Holotypus and paratype: Australia, Queensland, AU-3.

Remarks: Among the real *Carabodes* species with 10 notogastral setae only four have broadened and ciliate interlamellar setae; lamellar and rostral setae setiform, smooth: *C. granosus* SELNICK, 1959; *C. bicolor* BALOGH, 1958 *C. periculatus* AOKI, 1970; *C. globiger* BALOGH, 1970. From among them only *bicolor* from W. Africa and *globiger* from Ceylon have globiform sensillus aciculate like notogastral setae. The new species can be separated from *globiger* by its lack of deep incisure between notogaster and prodorsum, and its much longer interlamellar hair; from *bicolor* it may be separated by its lighter colour of sensillus and notogastral setae.

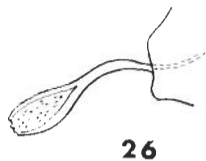
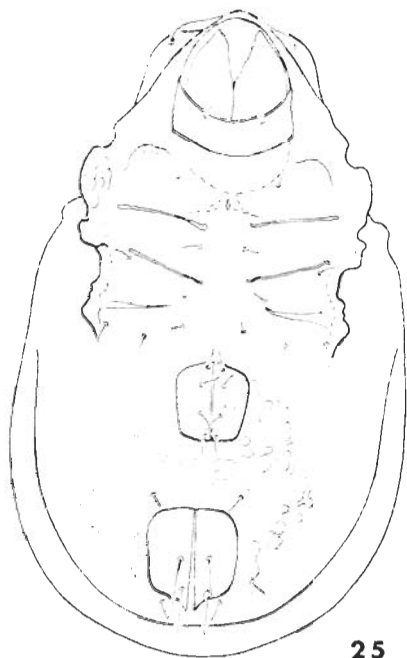
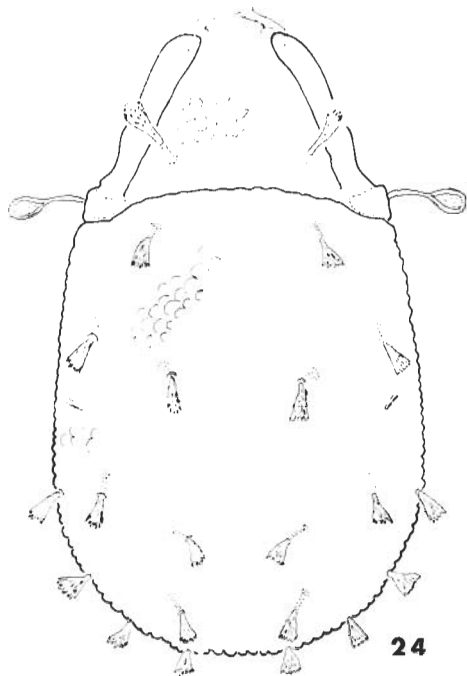
The new species is dedicated to Dr. L. STRINOVICH of Hungarian descent, microbiologist at the Alice Spring Hospital.

Gibbicepheus waterhousei sp. nov.

(Figs. 28-31)

Measurements. — Length: 660-672 μ , width: 428-436 μ

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 28): Lamellae connected with short, concavely arcuate translamella, at margin of this chitinized tubercles emitting rostral hairs. Latter together with lamellar hairs narrow, phylliform. Interlamellar hairs originating



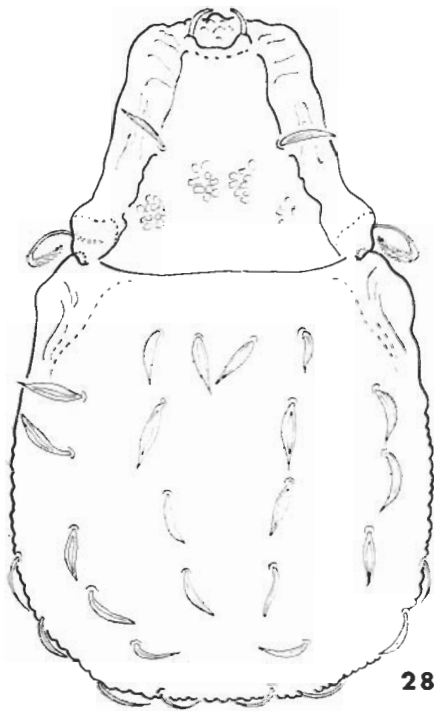
Figs. 24–27. *Carabodes strinovichi* sp. nov.

at the middle of prodorsum, narrow, phylliform. Notogaster adorned with tubercles, hairs (Fig. 31) phylliform, grouped as characteristic for genus. Sensillus (Fig. 30) narrow, in the middle somewhat thickened, recurving.

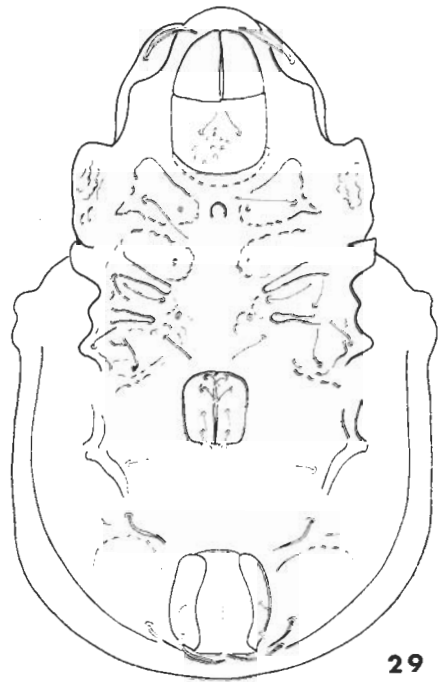
Ventral aspect (Fig. 29): Surface heavily chitinized. Epimeral hairs 1a, 2a, 3a minute, rest long and simple. 4 pairs of genital, 1 pair of aggenital and 2 pairs of simple anal hairs present. Adanal hairs broadened, phylliform, 3 pairs; ad_3 situating far in front in preanal position, ad_1 and ad_2 set behind close to each other.

Material examined: Holotypus and 3 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-3.

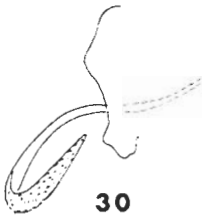
Remarks: The new species is related to a species group represented by *G. frondosus* (AOKI, 1959) from Japan and *G. novus* HAMMER, 1973 from Samoa. Hair c_2 of *G. frondosus* is closer to hair c_1 than distance between c_1 and its mate. In the other two species the distance between c_2 and c_1 , as well as between c_1 and c_1 is the same, or almost so. The sensillus of *G. novus* rounded at apex, while the



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Figs. 28–31. *Gibbicepheus waterhousei* sp. nov.

same of *waterhousei* sp. nov. is pointed; in *G. novus* c_2 originating farther back, than c_1 , in *G. waterhousei* sp. nov. hairs c_2 and c_1 originating in a common line.

The new species is dedicated to Dr. D. WATERHOUSE, leader of C. S. I. R. O. (Canberra) for his unfailing help in our work.

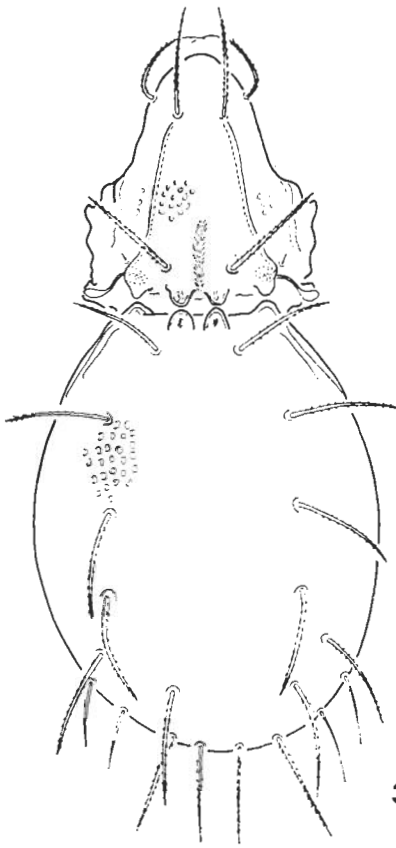
OTOCEPHEIDAE BALOGH, 1961

Pseudotocepheus szentivanyorum sp. nov.

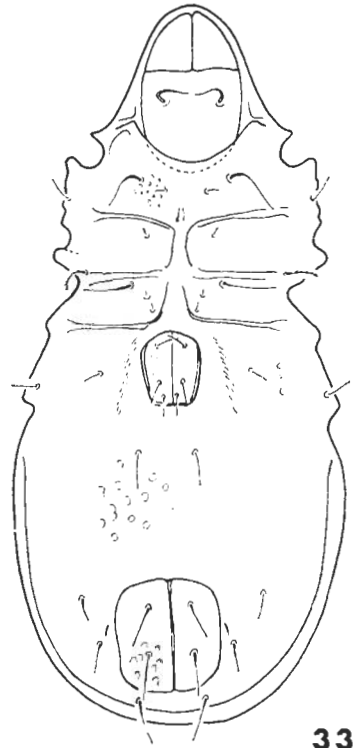
(Figs. 32–35)

Measurements. — Length: 875–1134 μ , width: 390–635 μ .

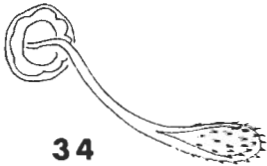
Dorsal aspect (Fig. 32): Rostrum widely rounded. Lamellae narrow, bent like an S. Straight lamellar hair emitted at distal end. Interlamellar hairs also



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Figs. 32–35. *Pseudotocepheus szenivanyorum* sp. nov.

straight, rigid, needle-like. Interlamellar region with foveolae. Sensillus (Fig 34.) clavate. Basal part of prodorsum with 2 pairs of condyli, opposite to them in frontal margin of notogaster again well developed condyli present, set far from one another. Notogaster also adorned with foveolae. Hairs strong, needle-like, or somewhat truncate, their surface (Fig. 35) finely aciculate.

Ventral aspect (Fig. 33): Sternocoxal region with some foveolae, hairs significantly differing in length. Hairs 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a minute, while hairs 1b and 3b especially long. Beside genital plate a band of scratches present; genital plate

with some longitudinal lines. 3 pairs of genital, 1 pair of aggenital, 2 pairs of anal and 3 pairs of adanal hairs present. Hair ad_1 in postanal position being the longest.

Material examined: Holotypus and 6 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.

Remarks: The *Pseudotocepheus* BALOGH, 1960 genus includes two species (*P. radiatus* HAMMER, 1973 from Samoa, and *P. longus* MAHUNKA, 1973 from Ceylon) whose dorsosejugal suture is straight with two pairs of condyli and their hairs are setiform. In these two species ad_3 is preanal in position, while in the new species the same is situated at height of anal front margin. Furthermore, the new species differs from the above two by the distribution of notogastral setae ($ta - te - ti$) too.

The new species is dedicated to the SZENTIVÁNY couple (Mr. J. and Mrs. M. SZENTIVÁNY, Adelaide, Australia) who have extended invaluable help to Hungarian zoologists carrying out research in Australia and New Guinea.

Pseudotocepheus vicarius sp. nov.

(Figs. 36-39)

Measurements. — Length: 640-681 μ , width: 267-294 μ .

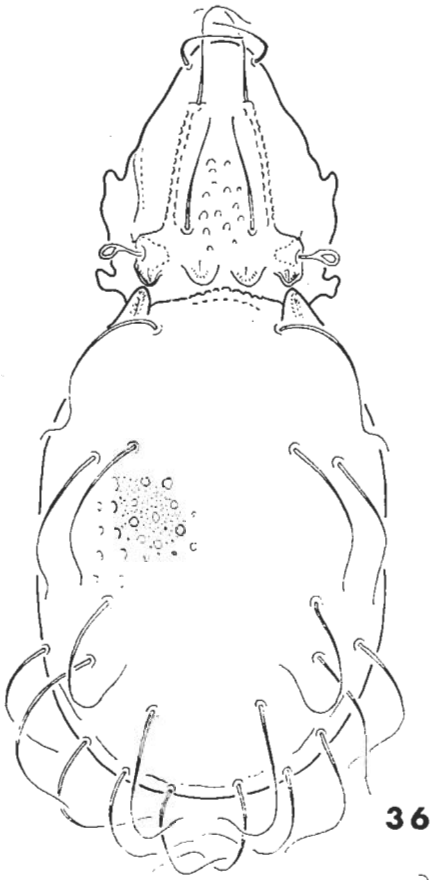
Dorsal aspect (Fig. 36): Prodorsal hairs, excepting exobothridial one, long, thin, bent at apex. Interlamellar region bearing some large foveolae, lamellae thin, scarcely distinguishable. Sensillus (Fig. 39) clavate. Basal part of prodorsum with 2 pairs of condyli, no connection between them. Notogastral surface with sparsely set, comparatively large foveolae. Laterally co. nl. condylic pair very large, no median condyle present, but dorsosejugal suture convex in front where tubercles present. Notogastral hairs long, their apex bent like a whip (Fig. 38).

Ventral aspect (Fig. 37): Sternocoxal region with thin, simple hairs, hairs 1a, 2a, 3a and 4a significantly shorter than others. Hairs 3a and 4a set in immediate vicinity of each other. 3 pairs of genital, 1 pair of aggenital, 2 pairs of anal and 3 pairs of adanal hairs present. Hair ad_3 in preanal position. Hair ad_1 slightly thicker than others.

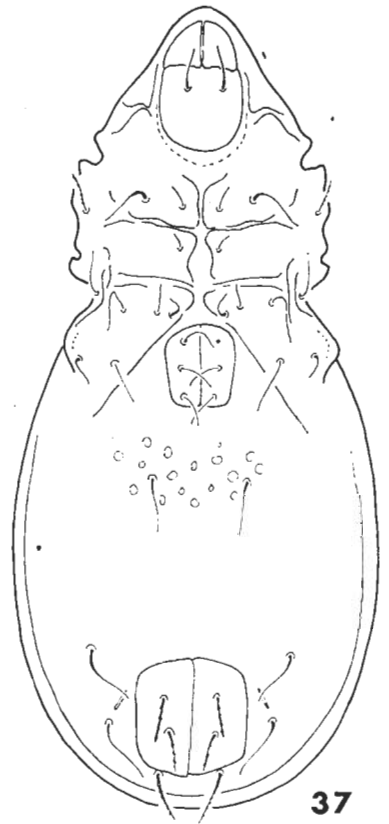
Material examined: Holotypus and 11 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.

Remarks: The new species is related to *Pseudotocepheus foveolatus* HAMMER, 1966. It may be separated from latter by the following features:

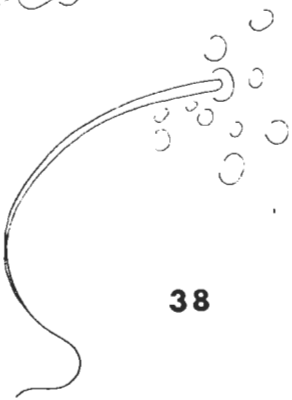
1. notogastral foveolae larger,
2. tubercle sitting on outer margin of notogaster is much larger than club of sensillus (in other species smaller),
3. interlamellar setae not reaching basis of lamellar setae (in other species reaching beyond it),
4. tubercles at frontal margin of notogaster arranged in an angular fashion (in other species arranged in a straight line).



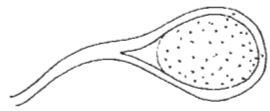
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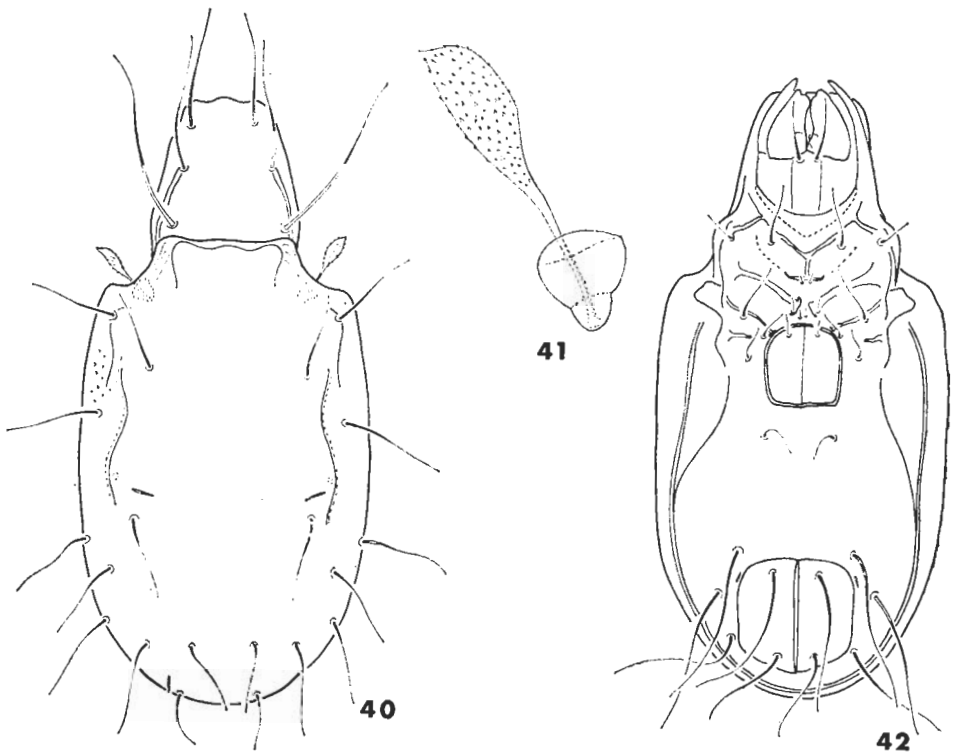


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Figs. 36 - 39. *Pseudotocepeus vicairus* sp. nov.



Figs. 40–42. *Pirnodus domrowi* sp. nov.

ORIPODIDAE JACOT, 1925

Pirnodus domrowi sp. nov.

(Figs. 40–42)

Measurements. — Length: 421 μ , width: 212 μ .

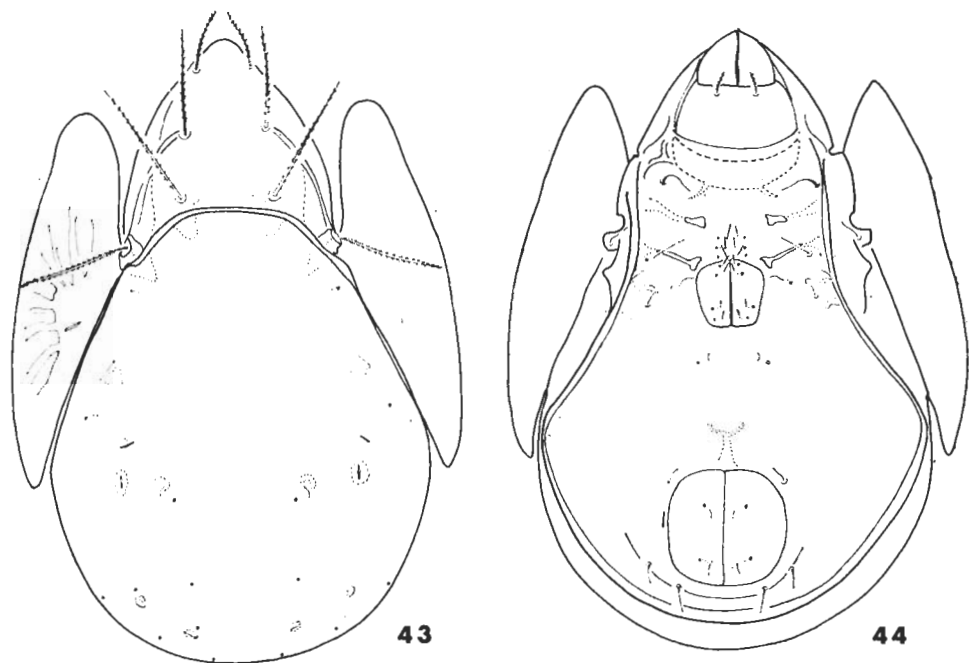
Dorsal aspect (Fig. 40): Rostrum broad, front margin sinuate. Lamellae short, well discernible, narrow, bent. Prodorsal hairs long, thin, bent interlamellar hairs the longest. Sensillus (Fig. 41) shaped like a plum-seed, surface aciculate. Front margin of notogaster also sinuate, surface with weakly developed foveolae. Hairs long, thin, weakly bent.

Ventral aspect (Fig. 42): Hairs originating in sternocoxal region of different lengths, inner hairs minute, others long, especially so hairs 1a and 3b. Genital opening and plates much smaller than anal plate. On them a tiny hair sitting. 1 pair of longer aggenital 2 pairs of long anal and 3 pairs of long, whip-like adanal hairs present. All thin.

Material examined: Holotypus: Australia, Queensland, AU—1.

Remarks: The new species is related to *P. imitans* BAL. et MAH., 1968 (South America), but significant differences exist between the two:

1. genital plate smaller than anal one,
2. ventral ornamentation (aciculation) lacking,



Figs. 43–44. *Neoribates setiger* sp. nov.

3. notogastral hairs longer and smooth,
4. dorsosejugal suture not concave.

This taxon was identified as *Pironus* by using AOKI's (1974, p. 135) generic key, though we had some doubt, since on the basis of the size of genital plate this taxon does not belong here.

PARAKALUMMIDAE GRANDJEAN, 1936

Neoribates setiger sp. nov.

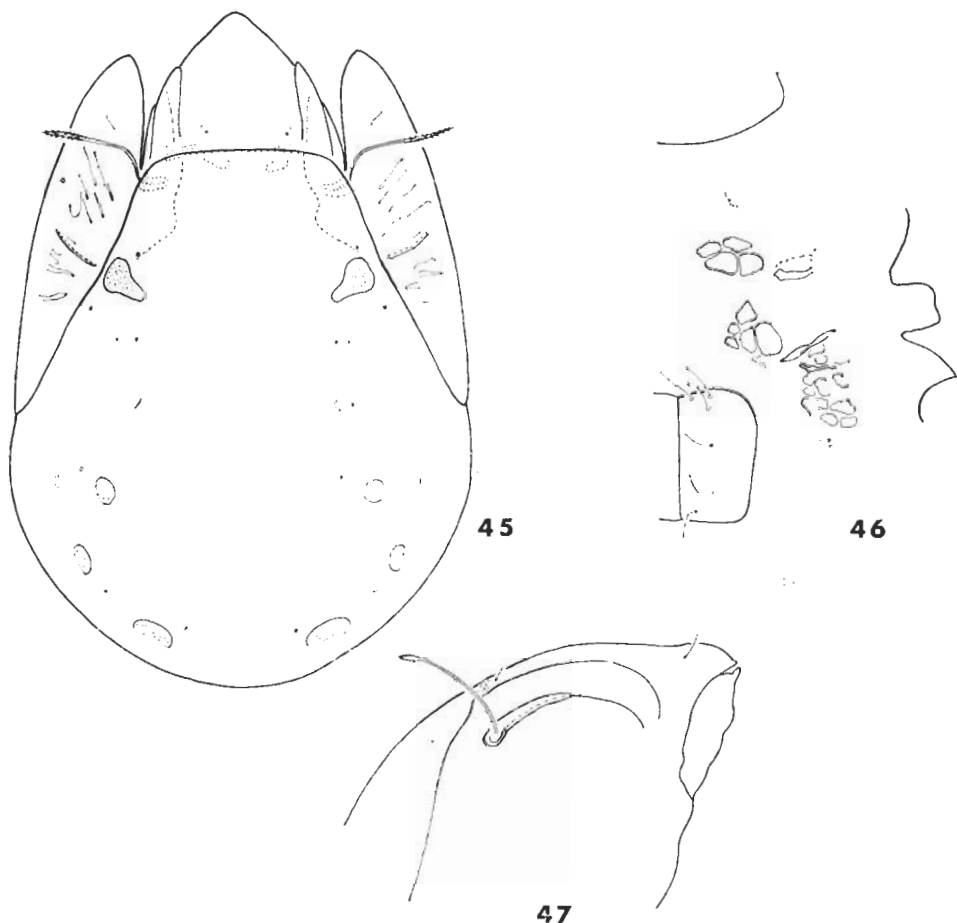
(Figs. 43–44)

Measurements. — Length: 559–583 μ , width: 389–450 μ .

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 43): Lamella narrow, arcuate. All three pairs of prodorsal hairs long, especially lamellar and interlamellar ones straight and rigid. Sensillus setiform, not or only weakly thickening. Surface of notogaster with tiny alveoli, sacculi, especially Sa comparatively large.

Ventral aspect (Fig. 44): Apodemes weakly developed, short. Inner hairs in sternocoxal region minute, others comparatively long. 4 pairs of genital, 1 pair of aggenital hairs minute, adanal ad_1 and ad_2 longer and robust, ciliate. Anal and ad_3 also minute.

Material examined: Holotypus and 1 paratype: Australia, Queensland, AU-1.



Figs. 45-47. *Galumna monteithi* sp. nov.

Remarks: So far only one species with setiform sensillus was known in the genus *Neoribates*, all the other species have lanceolate or weakly fusiform sensillus. The prodorsal hairs of *N. barbatus* HAMMER, 1966 (New Zealand) are much longer than the same of the new species, further, the size is bigger.

Galumna monteithi sp. nov.

(Figs. 45-47)

Measurements. — Length: 516-574 μ , width: 319-402 μ .

Dorsal aspect (Fig. 45): Prodorsum strongly narrowing towards the front, thus rostrum triangular in shape, though apex rounded. Rostral hair the longest among prodorsal hairs; lamellar and interlamellar hairs minute, in lateral view hair le (Fig. 47) distinctly emitted between lines L and S. Distal end of sensillus weakly clavate, distinctly ciliate. Pteromorphae with radially running weak

creases. 4 pairs of areae porosae present, Aa strongly widening towards sternomorphae. A₁ and A₂ round, A₃ elongate. 10 pairs of minute alveoli present.

Ventral aspect (Fig. 46): Apodemes short, weakly developed. Surface of epimeres polygonal sculpture in three groups. All hairs in this region minute, in most cases discernible only by their insertion points. 6 pairs of genital (Fig. 46), 1 pair of aggenital, 2 pairs of anal and 3 pairs of adanal hairs present; genital hairs long, others minute. Hair ad₃ paraanal in position, ad₁ and ad₂ in postanal position.

Material examined: Holotypus and 14 paratypes: Australia, Queensland, AU-4.

Remarks: Owing to its minute interlamellar hairs and shape of sensillus the new species is related to *Galumna obivus* BERLESE, 1914. But it differs from the latter by its much smaller size, extremely small lamellar hairs and shape of areae porosae.

The new species is dedicated to its collector Mr. G. MONTEITH (Brisbane, Australia).