

NEW FINDINGS OF MESOSTIGMATIC MITES FROM RODENTS IN THE TERRITORY OF AFGHANISTAN

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Abstract. A survey is given of mesostigmatic mites collected in Afghanistan from 7 species of rodents. From a total of 11 mite species identified *Laelaps echidninus*, *L. nuttalli*, *Haemogamasus gyrodontus* and *Androlaelaps longipes* were found in Afghanistan for the first time.

Systematic studies on mesostigmatic mites have been started in Afghanistan only recently. The first comprehensive treatment of smaller collections was published by Dusbábek (1970) and Daniel (1977). Arsenieva and Neronov (1980), who summed up the data obtained to date, report that from ten localities in the territory of Afghanistan only 28 species of mesostigmatic mites are known.

In October 1977 we trapped and examined a total of 89 specimens of small terrestrial mammals on the presence of parasitic mites in the localities Kabul, Laghman, Salang Pass, Khenjan and Ghazni. On 49 positive rodents of the species *Cricetulus migratorius* (Pallas), *Alticola roylei* (Gray), *Microtus afghanus* Thomas, *Meriones libycus* Lichtenstein, *Rattus rattoides* Hodgson, *Mus musculus* L., *Nesokia indica* (Gray et Hardwicke) we collected a total of 299 specimens belonging to 11 species of mesostigmatic mites, which are listed in the present communication. We discuss in detail only the findings of species new for the territory of Afghanistan. Similar data on other species are contained in the work of Daniel (1977) and Zemskaya et al. (1981).

LIST OF SPECIES FOUND

Laelaps algericus Hirst, 1925

33 ♀, 1 ♂, 4 Dn, 21 Pn on 13 *M. musculus*, Kabul 2.—10. 10. 1977; 13 ♀, 3 Pn on 4 *M. musculus*, Khenjan 15. 10. 1977.

Laelaps echidninus Berlese, 1887

1 ♂, 1 Pn on 1 *N. indica*, Laghman 12. 10. 1977.

The first finding in the territory of Afghanistan. After Mitchell et al. (1966) it is a world-wide common species on *Rattus* spp. living in association with man; records from mammals other than *Rattus* spp. may represent only temporary associations.

Laelaps jettmari Vitzthum, 1930

3 ♀ on 1 *M. musculus*, 4 ♀, 3 ♂ on 2 *C. migratorius*, Kabul 6. 10. 1977; 17 ♀, 7 ♂, 1 Pn on 1 *C. migratorius*, Ghazni 18. 10. 1977.

Laelaps nuttalli Hirst, 1915

22 ♀, 14 ♂, 4 Dn, 3 Pn on 2 *N. indica*, Laghman 12. 10. 1977.

The first finding in the territory of Afghanistan. A widespread species of the tropical and warm temperate zone, parasitizing a wide range of hosts; the representatives of the genus *Rattus* are preferred among them (Allred 1969b).

***Laelaps turkestanicus* Lange, 1955**

28 ♀, 8 ♂, 3 Dn on 2 *R. rattoides*, Khenjan 15. 10. 1977.

***Androlaelaps longipes* (Bregetova, 1952)**

3 ♀, 3 ♂, 7 Dn, 16 Pn on 8 *M. libycus*, Ghazni 17.—18. 10. 1977.

The first finding in the territory of Afghanistan. It is a species of Iranian-turan and Central Asiatic origin (Zemskaya et al. 1981), known from Egypt, Yemen, Israel (Till 1963), Transcaucasia, Ciscaucasia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia (Reytblat 1966), Iran (Zemskaya et al. 1981) and Pakistan (Allred 1969b). It is rather closely associated with different species of gerbils (Gerbillinae).

***Hypoaspis miles* (Berlese, 1892)**

2 ♀ on 1 *C. migratorius*, Ghazni 18. 10. 1977.

***Haemogamasus gyrinodes* Allred, 1969**

1 ♀ on *A. roylei*, Salang Pass 15. 10. 1977.

The first finding in the territory of Afghanistan. Allred (1969a) described this species from Pakistan from the same host.

***Eulaelaps stabularis* (Koch, 1836)**

4 ♀ on 2 *M. musculus*, 4 ♀ on 2 *C. migratorius*, Kabul 4.—6. 10. 1977.

***Liponyssoides sanguineus* (Hirst, 1914)**

2 ♀, 1 Dn, 11 Pn on 4 *M. musculus*, 2 ♀, 7 Dn, 8 Pn on 3 *C. migratorius*, 5 ♀, 6 Pn on 4 *M. afghanus*, Kabul 4.—6. 10. 1977; 3 ♀, 9 ♂, 4 Dn, 1 Pn on 5 *R. rattoides*, Khenjan 15. 10. 1977.

***Hirstionyssus butantanensis* (Fonseca, 1932)**

3 ♀ on 1 *M. musculus*, 2 ♀ on 1 *M. afghanus*, Kabul 2.—4. 10. 1977; 1 ♀ on *M. musculus*, Khenjan 15. 10. 1977.

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НОВЫЕ НАХОДКИ МЕЗОСТИГМАТИЧЕСКИХ КЛЕЩЕЙ ОТ
ГРЫЗУНОВ АФГАНИСТАНА

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Резюме. Дан обзор мезостигматических клещей, собранных на территории Афганистана с 7 видов грызунов. Из общего числа 11 видов клещей *Laelaps echidninus*, *L. nuttalli*, *Haemogamasus gyrinodes* и *Androlaelaps longipes* впервые обнаружены в Афганистане.

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