APONOMMA ORLOVI SP. N. – A NEW SPECIES OF IXODID TICKS (ACARINA, IXODIDAE) FROM VIETNAM

In a small collection of ticks found on *Python molurus* from Vietnam, there were in addition to two males of *Aponomma pattoni* Neum. two females of a new species. This species is dedicated to N. L. Orlov, a herpetologist of Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

*Aponomma orlovi* sp. n. Fig. 1

**Material:** Holotype - female, partly engorged, from *Python molurus bivittatus*, November 1988, North Vietnam, Shonla (21°20' E, 103°50' N), coll. N. Orlov, is deposited in the Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Leningrad.

Paratype - female, partly engorged, data as for the holotype, is deposited in the author’s collection.

**Description:** Body is of brown colour, breadth is more than length: length 2.7 mm, breadth 3.2 mm (hereinafter the sizes of both specimens are given). Scutum is cordiform, its length 0.8 mm, breadth 1.1 mm, its posterior margin is straight (Fig. 1A). Scutum is inornate, smooth, and there are few punctations around the lateral margins. Cervical grooves extend to lateral margins, and the cervical pits, into which cornua are placed are very broad and deep.

Basis capitulum is subrectangular with large cornua (its length is 0.3 mm (Fig. 1A)). Porous areas are small, round, deep, and touch posterior margin of basis capitulum. Breadth of basis capitulum is 0.5 mm. Paipi are slender cylindrical.

Their length is 0.3 mm, with segment 3 faintly separating from segment 2. Hypostome 2/2.

Coxae are narrow (coxa 1 is shorter than others), with each coxa having one small spur (Fig. 1B). Pulvillii on all tarsi are great, almost reach apical curvature of claws (Fig. 1C). Length of tarsus 1 is 0.3 mm. Spiracular plates are oval without chitinous edge, their size in 0.2 × 0.1 mm (Fig. 1D). Genital opening is at the level between coxae 2 and 3. Anal groove is absent.

Male, nymph and larva are unknown.

**Differential diagnosis and related species:** The new species differs from the *Aponomma* ones by its great cornua, narrow coxae and very deep cervical pits. From Asian species (*A. gervaisi, A. crassipes, A. varanense, A. pattoni*) it differs by the absence of a chitinous edge in its spiracular plates as well as an absence of an anal groove. The species involved has great pulvilli on all tarsi.

By referring to the above mentioned characteristics the new species can be considered unique among the *Aponomma* species and definitely has no close relations with Asian and Australian species. However, some characteristics, namely the shape of the body and scutum, the absence of an anal groove and chitinous edge of spiracular plates, are similar to the characteristics of the *A. transversale*, found in Africa on pythons (Kaufman T. 1972: A revision of the genus *Aponomma* Neumann, 1899 (Acarina: Ixodidae). Diss. Univ. Maryland, 389 pp.). Further description of the male *Aponomma orlovi* may specify a place for this species in the genus *Aponomma*.

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Received 12 September 1991

Accepted 9 April 1991
Fig. 1. Female of *Aponomma orlovi* sp. n. A – scutum and capitulum, dorsal view, B – coxae, C – tarsus 1, D – spiracular plate (d = dorsal, a = anterior).