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A NEW LARVAL MITE FROM ERITREA (ACARINA: TROMBICULIDAE)

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The majority of larval species so far described in the subfamily Trombiculinae have been taken as parasites of rodents, birds, and reptiles, only some twenty-five species having been recorded as parasitic on the Chiroptera. Our knowledge of the larval Trombiculid mites parasitic on bats is not sufficiently extensive at this stage to say with certainty that they are host specific, or that a certain genus or species is found only upon bats.

Among the tubes of mites recently sent to me for identification was one in which were a number of larval Trombiculidae taken on a Damara long-eared bat (*Nycteris capensis damarensis* Peters, 1870). These specimens differ from all other known species in the genus *Trombicula*.

I am indebted to Mr. Harry Hoogstraal, Department of Medical Zoology, United States Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3, Cairo, Egypt, for the opportunity given me to study these mites.

Genus **TROMBICULA** Berlese, 1905

Trombicula mounti sp. nov.

Differs from all other species in shape of scutum and stoutness of sensory spines.

Dorsal scutum (fig. 58) oblong; anterior edge shorter than posterior edge, with a concavity on each side of antero-median seta; lateral edges concave; posterior edge with a slight concavity medially. Antero-median seta placed near edge of scutum, below the level of antero-lateral setae; antero-lateral setae placed in anterior angles of scutum; postero-lateral setae longer than antero-laterals and placed at posterior angles of scutum. All five scutal setae provided with lateral barbs. Bases of sensory spines equidistant from one another and from lateral edges of scutum, and placed below middle of scutum. Sensory spines long, stout, and with long barbs on each side on the distal two-thirds, with short lateral

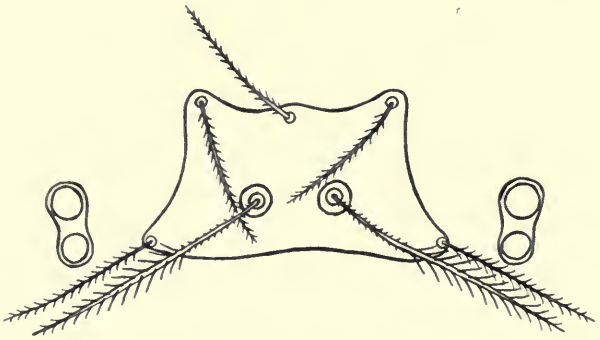

FIG. 58. *Trombicula mounti* sp. nov., dorsal scutum of larva.

FIG. 59. *Trombicula mounti* sp. nov., palp of larva.

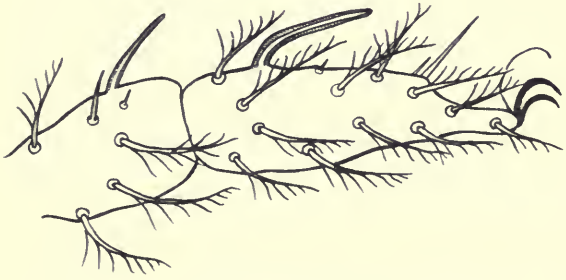

FIG. 60. *Trombicula mounti* sp. nov., tarsus i of larva.

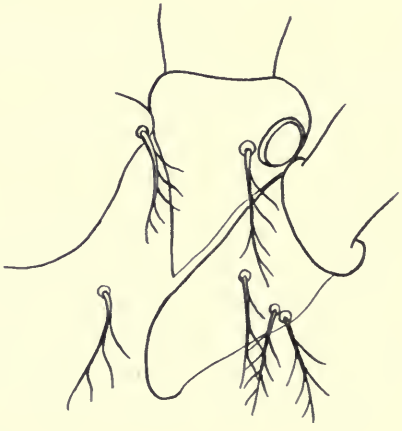

FIG. 61. *Trombicula mounti* sp. nov., duplication of coxal setae on leg ii of larva.

projections on the proximal third. On each side of dorsal scutum above the level of postero-lateral setae are the eye-plates, each with two eyes, the anterior eye the larger.

Dorsal setae 34 in number, arranged in transverse rows of 2 (humerals), 6, 6, 4, 6, 6, 4. Venter with 46 setae arranged in transverse rows of 2, 2, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 4, 2.

Palpal claw (fig. 59) tridentate. Femoral seta with one lateral barb; genual seta with three lateral barbs; dorsal tibial seta stout, with three lateral barbs; lateral tibial seta with two lateral barbs; ventral tibial seta nude; coxal seta of palp with five to seven lateral barbs. Galeal seta nude. Cheliceral blade with two small teeth on ventral edge distally.

Legs with seven segments; all tarsi with two claws and a long simple empodium. Each coxa with but one seta.

On tarsus i (fig. 60) a long and slender spur; microspur placed anterior to spur; subterminala long, slender; parasubterminala short. Tibia with tibiala, microtibiala, and an accessory spur.

On leg iii there is no mastitarsala.

Standard data.—AW 50; PW 80; SB 20; ASB 28; PSB 18; A-P 40; AM 40; AL 40; PL 50; Sens 70; DS 42; humerals 50; SD 45.

Holotype.—Collected February 23, 1951, in Asmara, Eritrea, by Harry Hoogstraal. Altitude 8,000 feet. Host: *Nycteris capensis damarensis* Peters, a Damara long-eared bat. Deposited in United States National Museum.

Paratypes.—Same data as the holotype. Deposited in the collections of Chicago Natural History Museum, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, the University of Kansas, Professor P. A. Buxton, H. Hoogstraal, C. E. Gunther, and Charles D. Radford.

Remarks.—On one specimen the coxa of leg ii was found to possess two accessory setae on the left side, with normal setation on the right leg (fig. 61).

This species is named for Commander Robert A. Mount, epidemiologist of the Naval Medical Research Unit.

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