



Descriptions of two *Copidognathus* halacarid mites (Acari, Halacaridae) from Zanzibar, Tanzania

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Abstract

Two halacarid species of the genus *Copidognathus* (Acari, Halacaridae) collected from the east coast of Unguja, Zanzibar, Tanzania, are described. *Copidognathus matemwensis* **sp. nov.** is characterized by an anterodorsal plate with 3 areolae, posterior dorsal plate with 2 costae, pair of ventromedial areolae between lateral and posterior setae on anterior epimeral plate, areolae present on lateral side of anterior half of genitoanal plate tending to join the areolae laterally to the genital opening area, rostrum elongate, tibiae I and II each with 1 denticulate process proximoventrally. The male of *Copidognathus corallorum* (Trouessart, 1899) is reported for the first time and described; leg morphology for *C. corallorum* is provided.

Key words: Taxonomy, marine Halacaridae, East Africa, new records

Introduction

Copidognathus Trouessart is the most species-rich genus of the family Halacaridae, with more than 300 species known from diverse habitats of marine, brackish and fresh waters. A few parasitic forms are known as well. So far, five species of this genus were reported from Tanzania. Gimbel (1919) recorded *C. zanzibari* (Gimbel, 1919) from Zanzibar and Konnerth-Ionescu (1977) reported *C. africanus* Bartsch, 1972 from Kunduchi, on the mainland of Tanzania. Recently, Chatterjee *et al.* (2006) described *C. corallicolus* Chatterjee, De Troch & Chang, 2006, *C. fungiae* Chatterjee, De Troch & Chang, 2006 and *C. ungujaensis* Chatterjee, De Troch & Chang, 2006. *Copidognathus* species have also been recorded from adjacent areas of Tanzania: *C. curiosus* Bartsch, 1982, *C. ornatus* Bartsch, 1981, *C. pontellus* Bartsch, 1981 and *C. sideus* Bartsch, 1981 from Mozambique Channel (Bartsch 1981, 1982); *C. africanus* Bartsch, 1972, *C. caloglossae* Proches, 2002, *C. frontispinus* Bartsch, 1972, *C. hartmani* Bartsch, 1972, *C. isopunctatus* Bartsch, 1972 and *C. simonis* (Lohmann, 1907) from South Africa (Lohmann 1907a, b; Bartsch 1972; Newell, 1984; Proches 2002); *C. gazii* Chatterjee & De Troch, 2000, *C. kenya* Chatterjee & De Troch, 2000 and *C. magnipalpus* (Police, 1909) from Kenya (Chatterjee & De Troch 2000); *C. cataphractus* (Trouessart, 1899), *C. corallorum* (Trouessart, 1899), *C. fabricii* (Lohmann, 1889), *C. gibbus* (Trouessart, 1889), *C. parallelus* (Trouessart, 1899) and *C. rostratus* (Trouessart, 1899) from Djibouti, Red Sea (Trouessart 1899, 1901; André 1938a, b, 1959); *C. brachyrhynchus* André, 1959, *C. mesomorpha* André, 1959 and *C. suzensis* André, 1959 from Gulf of Suez (André 1959); *C. arabicus* Chatterjee & Chang, 2004, *C. balakrishnani* Chatterjee, 2000, *C. keralensis* Chatterjee, 2000, *C. mumbaiensis* Chatterjee & Chang, 2004 and *C. sideus* Bartsch, 1982 from the west coast of India (Chatterjee & Sarma 1993; Chatterjee 2000; Chatterjee & Chang 2004). Proches (2002) also recorded *C.*