DESCRIPTION OF RAILLETIA FLECHTMANNI SP. N. (ACARI: GAMASIDA)

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Railletia flechtmanni sp. n. is described from the ear canal of its type host the domestic buffalo. The new species parasitizes cattle as well in Brazil.

Key words: Railletia flechtmanni – Acari – Gamasida – buffalo

The genus Railletia Trouessart, comprises five described (Domrow, 1979/80) and one undescribed species (Sweatman, 1984). Except for R. australis Domrow recorded from the ear canals of a marsupial, all remnant species have been recorded from the ear canals of ruminants (Domrow, 1979/80).

To facilitate ongoing research on biology and ecology of the Railletia species associated with domestic ruminants in Brazil, Railletia flechtmanni is herein briefly described. The description will emphasize those characters that permit its prompt recognition from R. auris (Leidy) which occurs in synhospitality with the new species in the ear canals of cattle in Brazil. A detailed description will be published later.

Railletia flechtmanni sp. n.
Figs 1 to 5

Female (holotype) – Slightly larger than R. auris. Idiosoma sacciform. Dorsal shield sculptured covering approximately 1/3 of idiosoma in engorged specimens. First and last pairs of setae associated with dorsal shield off shield (Fig. 1, arrows) (on shield in R. auris). Chaetotaxy of tibia IV 2 1/1 3/1 2 (2 1/1 3/1 1 in R. auris).

Male (paratype) – Slightly larger than R. auris. Idiosoma sacciform, slightly humped dorsally (strongly humped in R. auris). Dorsal shield as in female. Sternigenital shield triangular in shape (Fig. 2), narrower than R. auris (Fig. 3). Setae av1 of genua, tibia and tarsi II peg-like (Fig. 4) (slightly shorter and irregular in R. auris as shown in Fig. 5). Chaetotaxy of tibia IV as in female.

Type host: Bubalus bubalis L.

Location: Ear canals

Type locality: Sabará city, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Date of collection: 17 november 1987.

Type specimens: The Fundação Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), RJ, Brazil.

Holotype female no. 100005, paratype male no. 100006. Additional paratypes at FIOCRUZ, Flechtmann’s collection at ESALQ, Piracicaba, SP and senior’s author collection at UFRJ, RJ.

Etymology: Named in honour to Dr Carlos H. G. Flechtmann, a fellow Acarologist.

Remarks – The character state number of setae on dorsal shield has been used as a diagnostic feature for species of Railletia (Potter & Johnston, 1978; Domrow, 1979/80). However, due to variation in number and position observed in specimens from Brazil, only the position of the first and last pairs of setae associated with the dorsal shield have been taken into account in this paper.

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Fig. 1: dorsal shield and associated setae of *Raillietia flechtmani*. Fig. 2: sternigenital shields of *R. flechtmani*. Fig. 3: sternigenital shields of *R. auris*. Fig. 4: seta av₁ of tibia II of male of *R. flechtmani*. Fig. 5: seta av₁ of tibia II of male of *R. auris*. Bars a (Fig. 1) and b (Figs 2 and 3) = 100 μm. Bar c (Figs 4 and 5) = 50 μm.

REFERENCES

