

JERMYIA GEN. N. AND SOME NEW OPPIID MITES FROM  
MADAGASCAR (ACARI: ORIBATIDA)

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This study deals with oppiid mites from Madagascar. Four new species (*Oxyoppiella zsuzsanae*, *Gressitoppia pocsi* and *Lanceoppia madagascarensis*) and a new genus (*Jermyia sensilla* gen. et sp. n.) are described. A list and a key to the oppiid species of Madagascar are appended together with some taxonomic notes on relationships. With 6 figures.

Key words: Acari, Oribatida, Oppiidae, new taxa, Madagascar

INTRODUCTION

I am continuously studying the oribatid species of Madagascar (Malagasy Republic) (e.g., MAHUNKA 1996) mostly on the basis of the material collected by Dr. B. HAUSER (Geneva, Switzerland) and Dr. T. PÓCS (Eger, Hungary). In my previous papers, I have described species belonging to different families. In the present publication I give the description of new species belonging to the family Oppiidae GRANDJEAN, 1951 which were collected by T. PÓCS.

Several species belonging to this family were described earlier from Madagascar (BALOGH 1960, 1962 and MAHUNKA 1994, 1996, 1997). In this paper I list the presently known oppiid species from this region and describe some of the newly collected species. The new taxa help a better understanding of the relationships existing among the species (see BALOGH 1983, SUBÍAS & BALOGH 1989, BALOGH & BALOGH 1992).

In the present paper I do not discuss the systematic position of the species either in the listing or in the identification key. Thus, for example, the genus *Fossoppia* MAHUNKA, 1994 may not belong to the family Oppiidae GRANDJEAN, 1951, or any other family for that matter. However, for the time being I do not think it wise to erect a new suprageneric taxon. Neither have I dealt with any synonyms among the suprageneric taxa. Thus, for example, without having examined the type species I shall not synonymize *Radamoppia* MAHUNKA, 1994 with the subgenus *Lanceoppia* (*Bicristoppia*) SUBÍAS, 1989, although it might well be necessary at some future date. In the listing the names are given in the combinations accepted as valid today.

## LIST OF THE OPPIID SPECIES OF MADAGASCAR

*Aethioppia spinipes* (BALOGH, 1962)  
*Brachioppiella boraha* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Elaphroppia quadripilosa* (BALOGH, 1960)  
*Fossoppia calcarata* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Fossoppia pirata* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Fusuloppia simplex* (BALOGH, 1962)  
*Goyoppia sexpilosa* (BALOGH, 1960)  
*Gressittoppia pocsi* **sp. n.**  
*Jermyia sensilla* **gen. et sp. n.**  
*Lanceoppia (Bicristoppia) kalalao* MAHUNKA, 1997  
*Lanceoppia cucheana* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Lanceoppia madagascarensis* **sp. n.**  
*Lasioelba lemuria* MAHUNKA, 1997  
*Lemuroppia helleri* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Leptoppia benyovszkyi* MAHUNKA, 1996  
*Leptoppia procera* MAHUNKA, 1997  
*Oppiella nova* (OUDEMANS, 1902)  
*Otoppia midas* (BALOGH, 1962)  
*Oxyoppia pustulata* MAHUNKA, 1997  
*Oxyoppiella zsuzsankae* **sp. n.**  
*Pustuloppia madagassica* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Radamoppia ravenata* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Radamoppia vanga* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Ramusella aepyornis* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Sphagnoppia alata* MAHUNKA, 1997  
*Striatoppia luisiae* MAHUNKA, 1994  
*Striatoppia madagascarensis* BALOGH, 1960  
*Trematoppia cristipes* BALOGH, 1960

## A KEY TO THE OPPIIDS OF MADAGASCAR

- 1 (4) Infracapitulum anarthric type, rutellum minute.  
 2 (3) Tibia of leg I with robust apophysis bearing solenidion 1.  
*Nosybelba oppiana* MAHUNKA, 1994

- 3 (2) Tibia of leg I without apophysis, solenidion 1 arising on the surface of tibia I. (*Quadroppia* spp.)
- 4 (1) Infracapitulum diarthric type, rutellum normal.
- 5 (8) Spinae adnatae present. A pair of foramen-like structures in the sejugal region.
- 6 (7) Ten pairs of notogastral setae present. Surface of the genital plates with 5–6 striae *Fossoppia calcarata* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 7 (6) Thirteen pairs of notogastral setae present. Surface of the genital plates with 1–2 striae *Fossoppia pirata* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 8 (5) Spinae adnate absent. No foramen-like structure in the sejugal region.
- 9 (10) Tibia of leg I with apophysis bearing solenidion 1. All femora with broad crest ventrally *Trematoppia cristipes* BALOGH, 1962
- 10 (9) Tibia of leg I without apophysis. No ventral crest on the femora.
- 11 (32) Lyrifissures *iad* in paraanal position.
- 12 (13) Four pairs of genital setae. Legs with modified, erect, spiniform setae *Aethioppia spinipes* (BALOGH, 1962)
- 13 (12) Five pairs of genital setae.
- 14 (23) Setae  $c_2$  reduced or absent.
- 15 (18) Thirteen pairs of notogastral setae present (setae  $c_2$  represented only by their alveoli).
- 16 (17) Setae  $ad_1$  in postanal position. Only two pairs of very long setae present, all others very short *Lemuropia helleri* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 17 (16) Setae  $ad_1$  in paraanal position. Seven pairs of long and 5 pairs of very short setae present *Fusuloppia simplex* (BALOGH, 1962)
- 18 (15) Ten pairs of notogastral setae present (setae  $c_2$  represented only by their alveoli).
- 19 (22) All notogastral setae nearly equal in length.
- 20 (21) Sensillus bacilliform, ciliate. Lamellar line present *Ramusella aepyornis* MAHUNKA, 1994

- 21 (20) Sensillus pectinate. Lamellar line absent  
*Sphagnoppia alata* MAHUNKA, 1997
- 22 (19) Three pairs of notogastral setae much longer than the others. Sensillus smooth  
*Goyoppia sexpilosa* (BALOGH, 1960)
- 23 (14) Setae  $c_2$  present.
- 24 (25) Prodorsum smooth, without any structure like a costula, lamellar line or crest  
*Lasiobelba lemuria* MAHUNKA, 1997
- 25 (24) Prodorsum with a costula or crest.
- 26 (29) Costulae long reaching to the rostral apex. Surface of notogaster and ventral plate ornamented by sculpture.
- 27 (28) Notogaster and ventral plate with polygonate design  
*Striatoppia luisiae* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 28 (27) Notogaster and ventral plate with striae  
*Striatoppia madagascarensis* BALOGH, 1960
- 29 (26) Costulae short, reaching to the insertion of the lamellar setae. Surface of notogaster and ventral plate smooth.
- 30 (31) All notogastral setae nearly equal in length  
*Oppiella nova* (OUDEMANS, 1900)
- 31 (30) Two pairs of notogastral setae conspicuously long, all others minute  
*Elaphroppia quadripilosa* (BALOGH, 1960)
- 32 (11) Lyrifissures *iad* in apoanal position.
- 33 (34) Lyrifissures *iad* in direct apoanal position. Surface of the body with sculpture consisting of granules and striae  
***Oxyoppiella zsuzsankae*** sp. n.
- 34 (33) Lyrifissures *iad* in inverse apoanal position. Surface of the body without sculpture.
- 35 (40) Four pairs of genital setae present.
- 36 (37) Setae  $c_2$  absent. Acetabula of leg IV normal ***Gressittoppia poci*** sp. n.
- 37 (36) Setae  $c_2$  present. Acetabula of leg IV removed posteriorly, far from the acetabula III.

- 38 (39) Setae  $ad_1$  in paraanal position. Great differences exist between the notogastral setae **Jermyia sensilla** gen. n. et sp. n.
- 39 (38) Setae  $ad_1$  in postanal position. Notogastral setae equal in length  
*Leptoppia benyovszkyi* MAHUNKA, 1996
- 40 (35) More than four pairs of genital setae present.
- 41 (46) Five pairs of genital setae present.
- 42 (45) One pair of interbothridial crests and two pairs of sigilla present. Epimera III and IV much larger than epimera I and II.
- 43 (44) Rostral apex tripartite. Notogastral setae conspicuously short, much shorter than the lamellar setae *Leptoppia procera* MAHUNKA, 1997
- 44 (43) Rostral apex rounded. Notogastral setae normal in length, they are longer than the lamellar setae *Brachioppiella boraha* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 45 (42) One unpaired interbothridial basal crest and three pairs of sigilla present. Epimera III and IV normal, not larger than epimera I and II  
*Pustuloppia madagassica* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 46 (41) Six pairs of genital setae present.
- 47 (54) One pair of tubercles or crests present in the interbothridial region.
- 48 (49) Notogastral surface with tubercles. Notogastral setae very long  
*Radamoppia vanga* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 49 (48) Notogastral surface smooth.
- 50 (51) Setae  $la$  and  $lm$  arising in one longitudinal row  
*Radamoppia ravenala* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 51 (50) Setae  $la$  and  $lm$  arising in one transversal row.
- 52 (53) A pair of triangular tubercles present in the sejugal region. Interlamellar and lamellar setae normal in length  
*Lanceoppia (Bicristoppia) kalalo* MAHUNKA, 1997
- 53 (52) No triangular tubercles in the sejugal region. Prodorsal and notogastral setae – except the rostral ones – minute  
*Lanceoppia cucheana* MAHUNKA, 1994
- 54 (47) No tubercles or crests in the interbothridial region.

- 55 (56) Pedotecta I conspicuously long and sharply pointed anteriorly. Notogastral setae minute *Otoppia midas* BALOGH, 1962
- 56 (55) Pedotecta I normal. Notogastral setae well-developed  
***Lanceoppia madagascarensis* sp. n.**

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW TAXA

##### ***Jermyia* gen. n.**

Diagnosis: Family Oppiidae GRANDJEAN, 1951. Rostrum roundish, undivided. Prodorsal surface without distinct costulae, a fine lamellar line and three pairs of interbothridial sigilla present. Sensillus fusiform, with long branches. Notogaster without crista, ten pairs of setae,  $c_2$  short. Exobothridial surface weakly sclerotised, lightly covered by granules. Position of the acetabula of legs characteristic, acetabula IV removed posteriorly, far from acetabula III. Discidium long, reaching to acetabula. Epimera I and II narrow, epimera III and IV very large, their posterior borders directed posteriorly to acetabula IV. Four pairs of genital setae present, setae  $ad_1$  and  $ad_2$  in paraanal,  $ad_3$  in preanal, lyrifissures *iad* in inverse apoanal position.

Type species: *Jermyia sensilla* sp. n.

Remarks: The new genus is undoubtedly related to the *Brachioppia* – *Brachioppiella* group and is nearest to *Leptoppia* MAHUNKA, 1997. In the case of the known genera and subgenera – excepting the genus *Leptoppia* – the position of the acetabula, and in connection with it the structure of the podosoma and the sternocoxal region, is normal. In the case of the new species as a consequence of the more posterior position of leg IV this situation is changed as described in the diagnosis. Among the other related taxa only the subgenus *Brachioppiella* (*Gressitoppia*) BALOGH, 1987 and the genus *Brassiella* BALOGH, 1987 (see SUBÍAS & BALOGH 1989) have four pairs of genital setae. However, the epimeral region of both latter taxa is normal and setae  $ad_1$  is located in a posterior position. This difference from the known related taxa suggests that a separation on the generic level is necessary.

Etymology: I dedicate the new species to my dear friend Prof. Dr. TIBOR JERMY upon his 85th birthday. He is the doyen of ecology and plant protection zoology in Hungary, whose advice and help not only for me but for many a Hungarian taxonomist and ecologist have gone a long way in furthering our science as a whole.

**Jermedia sensilla** sp. n.  
(Figs 1–4)

Measurements. – Length of body: 173–181  $\mu\text{m}$ , width of body: 135  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Prodorsum: Rostrum roundish. Prodorsal surface with a pair of short lamellar lines located laterally, comparatively far from the lamellar setae and overlapping over their insertion points (Fig. 1). Three pairs of interlamellar and some lateral sigilla present. Bothridia relatively small, nearly oval with large posterior lobes. Rostral setae arising on the prodorsal surface, far from each other. All four pairs of prodorsal setae – excepting setae *in* – setiform, their ratio: *ro in* > *ex* > *le*. Setae *ro* conspicuously ciliate, setae *in* roughened. Sensillus (Figs 1, 3) with an asymmetrically fusiform head having 6 branches unilaterally. A pair of small tubercles in the sejugal region, behind the bothridia.

Notogaster: Conspicuously elongated. Median part of the dorsosejugal suture only slightly arched (Fig. 1). Ten pairs of notogastral setae present, setae *c*<sub>2</sub> much shorter than the others, directed laterally. All others long, finely ciliated, four inner setae (*la*, *lm*, *h*<sub>2</sub>, *h*<sub>3</sub>) arising in a conspicuous longitudinal row.

Lateral part of podosoma: Position of the acetabula of the legs are characteristic, acetabula IV located far away posteriorly from acetabula III; distance of acetabula between III and IV four times longer than the same between acetabula II and III (Fig. 3). Acetabula III and IV surmount acetabula I and II. Exobothridial region somewhat sclerotised and the field between acetabula II and III slightly granulated. Pedotecta I small, pedotecta II–III reduced, discidium very long, flat, its lateral margin sinuous, reaching to the acetabula IV.

Ventral parts of the body (Fig. 2): except the anterior part of the sternal apodeme and borders all epimeral borders and apodema are well-developed, but all narrow. Epimera III and IV very large, apodema IV directed posteriorly to the acetabula IV, straight, arched only near acetabula IV (Fig. 2). Inner part of epimeral surface with a polygonate pattern. Setae *1c* arising on pedotecta I. Setae *4c* arising on the anterolateral corner of discidium. Epimeral setae of normal size, setae *1c*, *3c*, *4b* and *4c* ciliate, all others nearly smooth. Epimeral setal formula: 3–1–3–3.

Genital opening much smaller than the anal one. On the genital plates an anteromedian crest, directed inwards, observable. Anogenital setal formula: 4–1–2–3. Position of the aggenital setae normal, adanal setae characteristic for this genus: two pairs (*ad*<sub>1</sub> and *ad*<sub>2</sub>) in paraanal, *ad*<sub>3</sub> in preanal position. Lyrifissures *iad* also characteristic (inverse apoanal) for the genus.

Infracapitulum, chelicerae and palps are of the normal type.

Legs: Length of all joints normal, tibiae of legs II and III dilated, shape of leg I is shown in Fig. 4. Femur of leg I with short crest.

Legs setal formulae:

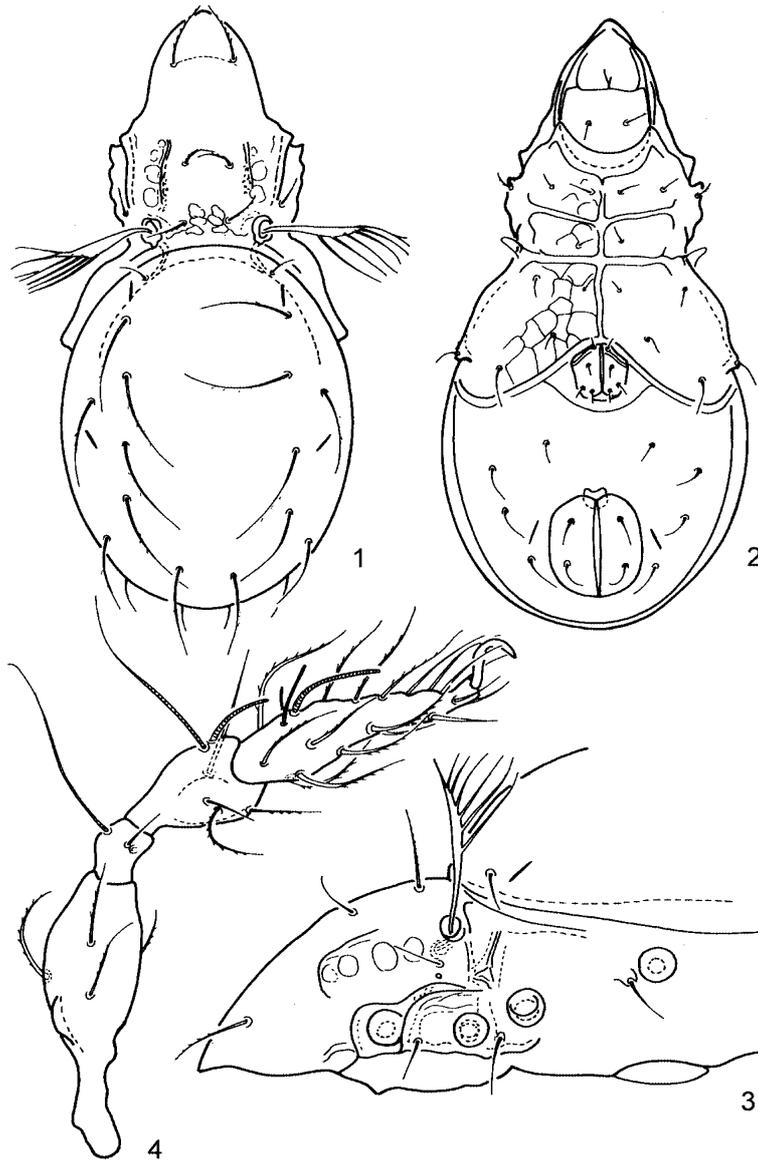
I: 1–5–2+1–4+2–20+2–1.

IV: 1–2–2–3+1–10–1.

Material examined: Holotype – Malagasy Republic, Toamasina Province. Peat forest and woodland often with thick *Sphagnum* layer on coastal white sand, with shallow lakes, between Ampangalanas Canal and the ocean. 5 km N of Andovoranto, between Andombo and Andovoa, at 10 m alt. 24. Aug. 1998. Leg. T. Pócs, No. 9887. 1 paratype from the same sample. Holotype (1653-HO-01) and paratype (1653-PO-01) deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, with identification numbers of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnida.

Remarks: The new species is readily characterised by the long and conspicuously ciliate notogastral setae.

Etymology: The species is named after the characteristic form of its sensillus.



**Figs 1–4.** *Jermymia sensilla* gen. et sp. n. – 1 = body in dorsal view, 2 = body in ventral view, 3 = podosoma in lateral view, 4 = leg I

**Gressitoppia poci** sp. n.  
(Figs 5–9)

Measurements. – Length of body: 248–270  $\mu\text{m}$ , width of body: 124–138  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Prodorsum:** Rostrum widely rounded. Prodorsal surface with a pair of lamellar “elevation” covered by small granules (neither clear lamellar lines nor costulae visible, but a weak transcostula present). The elevations are located laterally, comparatively far from the lamellar setae and reaching over their insertion points (Fig. 5). Three pairs of interlamellar and some well-developed lateral sigilla present, a pair of weak interbothridial apophyses also observable. Bothridium small, cup-shaped, without posterior lobe. Rostral setae arising on the lateral margin of prodorsum, conspicuously far from each other, and longest of all the prodorsal setae. Lamellar setae shorter, bent inwards, interlamellar ones shortest of all and smooth. Sensillus long, also bent inwards (Fig. 6), asymmetrically fusiform, pectinate. Its branches (mostly 9) long.

**Notogaster:** Conspicuously elongated. Median part of the dorsosejugal suture convex (Fig. 5). Nine pairs of notogastral setae present, setae  $c_2$  absent, represented only by their alveoli. All others nearly equal in length, comparatively thick and well ciliated. Setae *la* stands before *lm*.

Lateral part of podosoma (Fig. 9): Position of the acetabula of legs are characteristic, acetabula III and IV located over acetabula I and II. Exobothridial region somewhat sclerotised and a field between acetabula II and III slightly granulated. Pedotecta I small, pedotecta II–III reduced, discidium normal, its margin sinuous in ventral view.

Ventral parts of the body (Fig. 7): All epimeral borders and apodemes well developed, and broad. Foveola-like structures are in the surface of the epimeral borders: an unpaired one behind the mental tectum, and one pair each on *bo. 2.* and *bo. sej.* Setae *1c* arising far laterally on pedotecta I. Setae *4c* arising at the basis of discidium. Epimeral setae of normal size, long and thin, setae *1c*, *3b*, *3c*, *4b* and *4c* well ciliate, all others roughened only. Epimeral setal formula: 3–1–3–3. Genital opening much smaller than the anal one. Anogenital setal formula: 4–1–2–3. Position of the aggenital setae normal, adanal setae typical for this genus:  $ad_1$  in postanal,  $ad_2$  in paraanal,  $ad_3$  in preanal position. Lyrifissures *iad* also typical (inverse apoanal) for the genus. All setae in this region simple, smooth.

Infracapitulum, chelicera and palps are of the normal type.

Legs: Length and shape of all segments normal. Leg setal formulae:

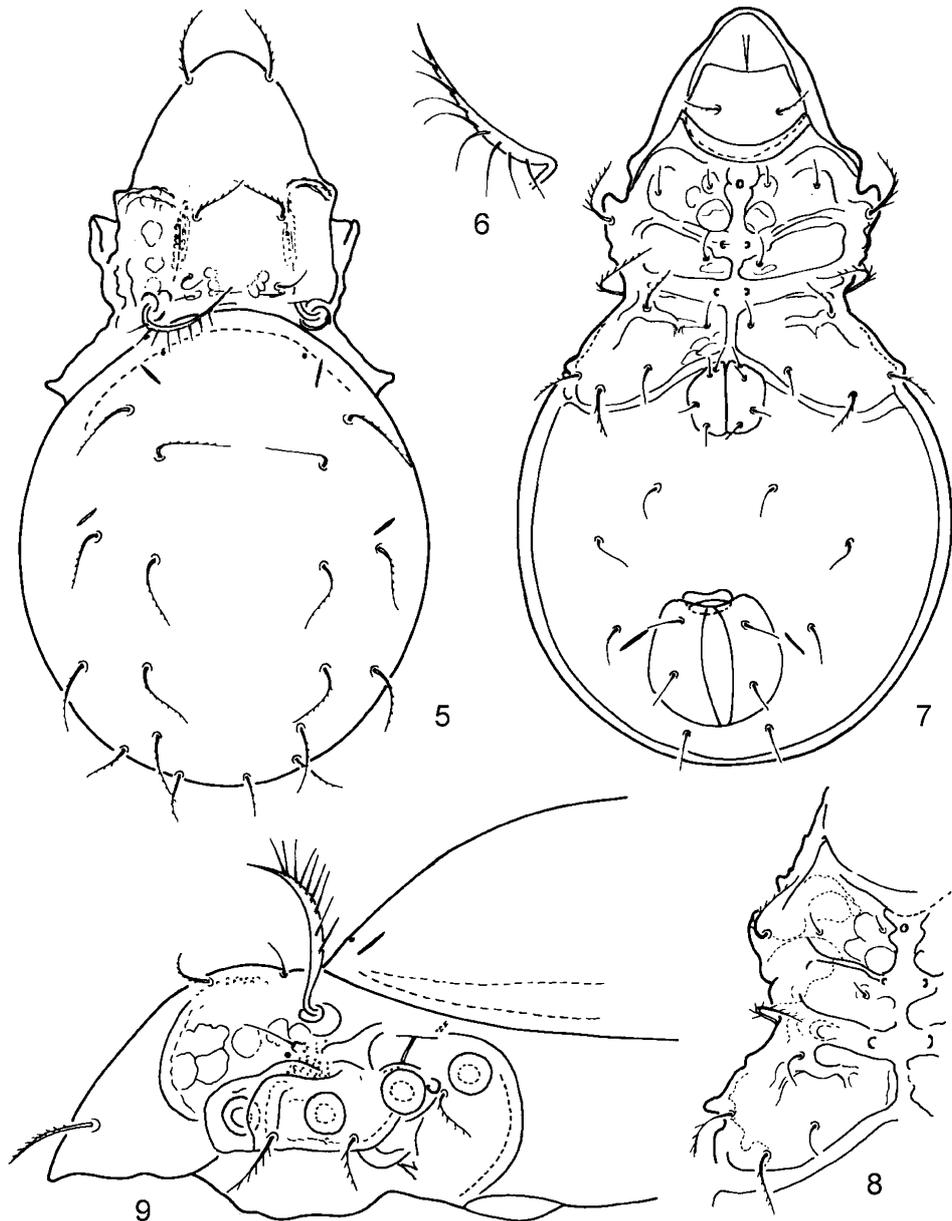
I: 1–5–2+1–4+2–20+2–1.

IV: 1–2–2–3+1–10–1.

**Material examined:** Holotype: Malagasy Republic, Toamasina Province. Peat forest and woodland often with thick *Sphagnum* layer on coastal white sand, with shallow lakes, between Ampangalanas Canal and the ocean. 5 km N of Andovoranto, between Andombo and Andovoa, at 10 m alt. 24. Aug. 1998. Leg. T. Pócs, No. 9887. 3 paratypes from the same sample. Holotype (1654-HO–01) and 2 paratype (1654-PO–01) deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, with identification numbers of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnida, 1 paratype in the Muséum d’Histoire naturelle, Geneva.

**Remarks:** On the basis of the form of costulae, the new species stands nearest to the type species of the genus *Gressitoppia* BALOGH, 1983 (*Brachioppia moresoensis* KOK, 1967). The new species is distinguished from it by the very long epimeral setae, especially setae *1c* and *3c* and the much longer sensillar head.

Etymology: I dedicate the new species to my friend, Prof. Dr. T. Pócs (Eger, Hungary), the renowned bryologist and the collector of this material.



**Figs 5–9.** *Gressittoppia pocsi* sp. n. – 5 = body in dorsal view, 6 = sensillum, 7 = ventral view, 8 = anterior part of the epimeral region, 9 = podosoma in lateral view

**Lanceoppia madagascarensis** sp. n.  
(Figs 10–12)

Measurements. – Length of body: 356–389  $\mu\text{m}$ , width of body: 210–233  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Prodorsum:** Rostrum elongated, a small nasiform part separated from the prodorsum. Prodorsal surface with a pair of weak lamellar elevations, true costulae absent. A conspicuous transversal lath before the lamellar setae is also present. Two pairs of interlamellar and some lateral sigilla conspicuous (Fig. 10). Rostral setae longer than the remaining prodorsal setae, arising laterally, on the surface of the prodorsum, and curving inwards. Lamellar setae short, fine, setiform; interlamellar ones straight, directed posteriorly, slightly erect. Exobothridial setae simple, small. Bothridia relatively small, nearly oval and with posterior lobes. Sensillus (Fig. 12) long, its head fusiform, elongate, bearing some spicules. A pair of tubercles in the sejugal region, behind the bothridia.

**Notogaster:** Conspicuously elongated. Median part of the dorsosejugal suture convex, roundish. Nine pairs of notogastral setae present, setae  $c_2$  represented only by their alveoli. All others setiform, slightly ciliated. Setae  $p$  much shorter than the anterior pairs. Setae  $la$  arising at the same level as  $lm$ .

**Lateral part of podosoma:** Acetabula I–IV in normal position, lying on the same level (Fig. 12). Exobothridial region well sclerotised, their lateral part and a field between acetabula II and III well granulated. Pedotecta I small, pedotecta II–III reduced, discidium long, with a small, sharp posterolateral corner.

**Ventral parts of the body:** All apodemes and epimeral borders well developed, epimeres well framed. Along the sternal apodeme a well-developed minitectum present (Fig. 11), thus the borders of the epimeral fields appear double in outline. Epimeral setae long and thin, simple, all setae nearly smooth. Setae  $lc$  arising far laterally on the surface on pedotecta I. Epimeral setal formula: 3–1–3–3. Genital opening much smaller than the anal one. Anogenital setal formula: 6–1–2–3. Position of the aggenital setae normal, posterior pair of adanal setae located posteriorly. All setae in the anogenital region smooth. Lyrifissures  $iad$  in inverse apoanal position.

Infracapitulum, chelicerae and palps are of the normal type.

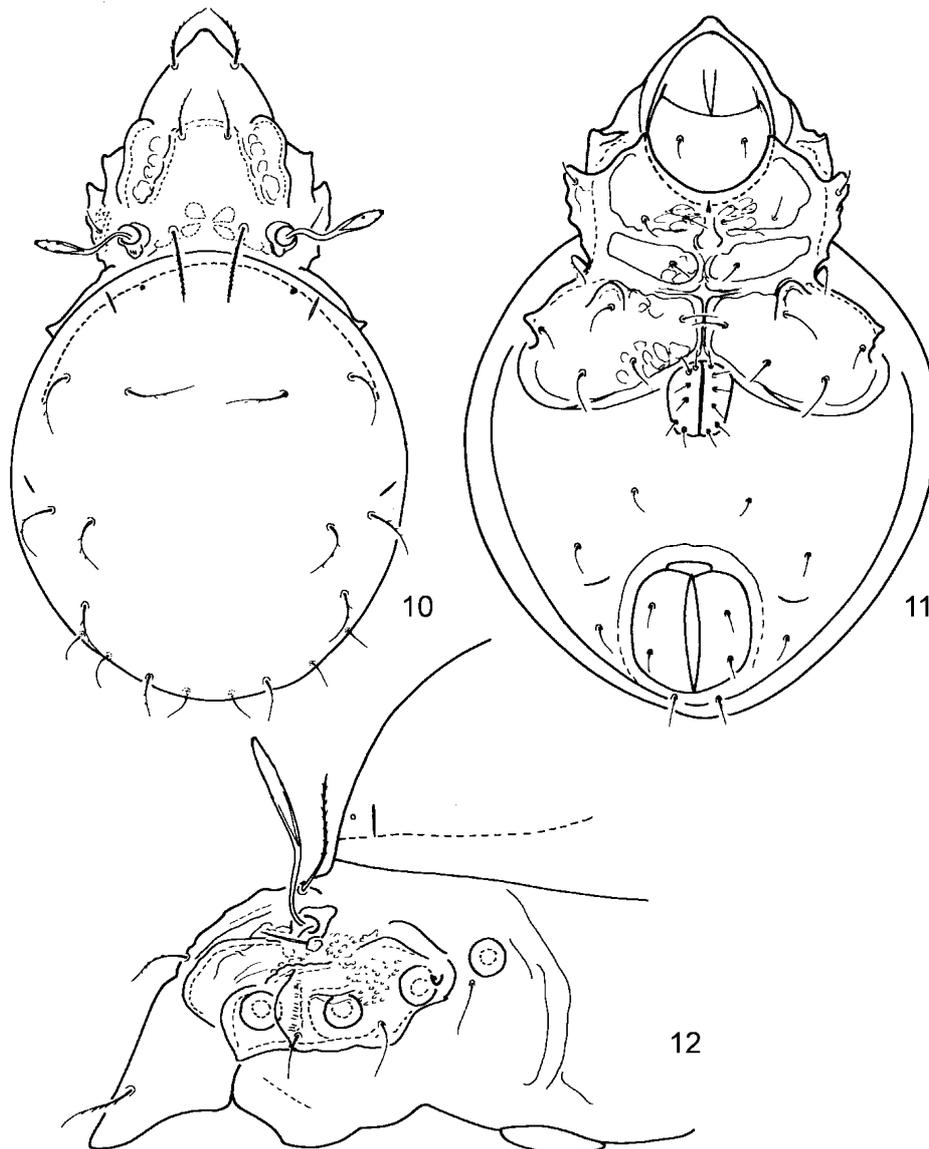
Legs: All conspicuously long, their segments elongated.

**Material examined:** Holotype: Malagasy Republic, Toamasina Province, Maroizaha forest. Mossy montane rainforest with bamboo (*Nastus* sp.) undergrowth on the summit ridge of Mt. Maromiziha, south of the Andasibe Nat. Park and Antananarive Toamasina road, 2 km W of Anevoka village, at 1080–1214 m alt. 26 August, 1998. Leg. T. Pócs, No. 9890. 5 paratypes from the same sample. Holotype (1655-HO-01) and 4 paratypes (1655-PO-01) deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, with identification numbers of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnida, 1 paratype in the Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva.

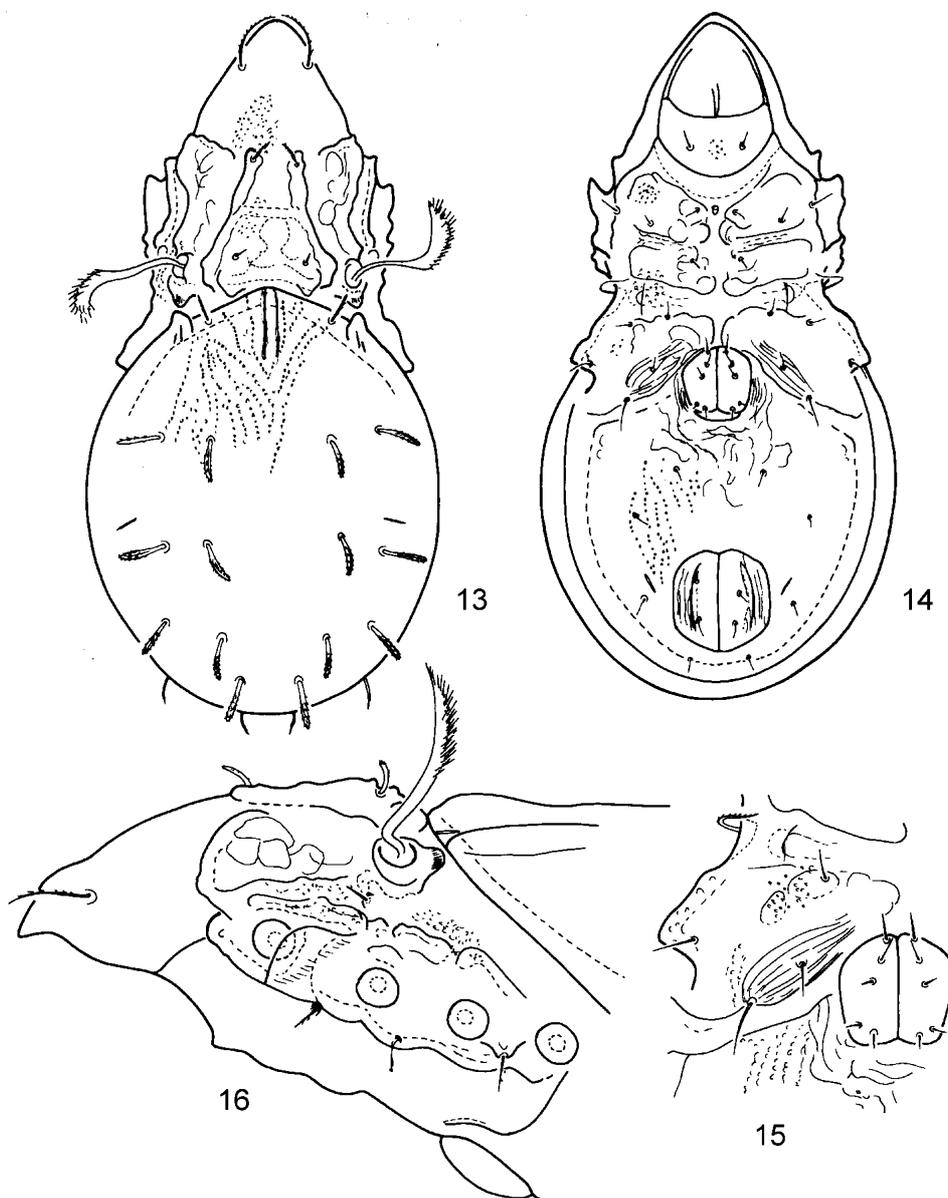
**Remarks:** The new species is readily characterised by the 4 pairs of interbothridial sigilla, the long, backward directed, erect interlamellar setae and the comparatively long and well ciliate notogastral setae. Most of the heretofore described species have either short interlamellar setae e.g., *Lanceoppia woodringi* HAMMER, 1968, or in their interbothridial region the sigilla are absent e.g. *Lance-*

*oppia tortile* MAHUNKA, 1989. This combination of features is not known in the other species.

Etymology: The new species is named after its locality.



**Figs 10–12.** *Lanceoppia madagascarensis* sp. n. – 10 = dorsal view, 11 = ventral view, 12 = podosoma in lateral view



**Figs 13–16.** *Oxyoppiella zsuzsankae* sp. n. – 13 = dorsal view, 14 = ventral view, 15 = posterior part of the epimeral region and genital plates, 16 = podosoma in lateral view

**Oxyoppiella zszsankae** sp. n.  
(Figs 13–16)

Measurements. – Length of body: 196–218  $\mu\text{m}$ , width of body: 103–115  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Prodorsum:** Rostrum roundish, undivided. Prodorsal surface densely covered by granules. A pair of distinct costulae, a weaker transcostula and a pair of lateral costulae present (Fig. 13). Interbothridial region with one pair of interbothridial tubercles, interbothridial sigilla absent, in this region a pair of indistinct fields visible. Rostral seta long setiform, lamellar and interlamellar setae short, bacilliform, exobothridial ones simple, spiniform. Bothridium with a large posterior lobe, standing opposite to the humeral apophysis of the notogaster. Sensillus long with fusiform head, scopulate.

**Notogaster:** Median part of the dorsosejugal region convex and penetrating into the interbothridial region (Fig. 13). A pair of large humeral apophyses, a pair of short, weak cristae and an anteromedian, unpaired lath present. Notogastral surface ornamented, and/or covered by granules, mostly arranged in longitudinal rows. Ten pairs of dilated setae, setae  $c_2$  and setae  $p$  much shorter and finer than the others. Setae  $lm$  and  $la$  arising at the same level.

**Lateral part of podosoma:** Acetabula I–IV in normal position, lying on the same level (Fig. 16) exobothridial and acetabular regions well sclerotised, distinctly granulated. Exobothridial seta arising on a small tubercle. Pedotecta I small, pedotecta II–III reduced, discidium short with protuberances.

**Ventral parts of the body** (Fig. 14): Surface of mentum and the epimeral surface irregularly but distinctly granulate. All apodemes well sclerotised, epimeral borders also conspicuous. An unpaired foramen-like structure and a pair of tubercles observable on epimera III and bearing setae  $3b$ . Setae  $1c$  located laterally, near to the margin of pedotecta I. Epimeral borders  $bo. sej.$  with a pair of longitudinal crests laterally. Posteromedian surface of epimera IV striate (Fig. 15). Form of the epimeral setae normal, epimeral setal formula: 3–1–3–3. All setae nearly smooth. Surface of the ventral plate striated and covered by granules like the notogaster. Genital plate smooth, anal plate striated carrying a longitudinal median lath. Anogenital setal formula 5–1–2–3. Setae  $ad_1$  in postanal,  $ad_3$  in preanal, lyrifissures  $iad$  in direct apoanal position. All adanal setae slightly dilated.

Infracapitulum, chelicera and palps are of the normal type.

Legs: Solenidion 1 arising on a small apophysis.

**Material examined:** Holotype: Malagasy Republic, Toamasina Province. Peat forest and woodland often with thick *Sphagnum* layer on coastal white sand, with shallow lakes, between Ampangalanas Canal and the ocean. 5 km N of Andovoranto, between Andombo and Andovoa, at 10 m alt. 24. Aug. 1998. Leg. T. Pócs, No. 9887. 5 paratypes from the same sample. Holotype (1653-HO-01) and 4 paratypes (1653-PO-01) deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, with identification numbers of the specimens in the Collection of Arachnida, 1 paratype in the in the Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva.

**Remarks:** The new species is readily distinguishable from all related taxa by the unique sculpture of the notogaster, which resembles the sculpture of some *Striatoppia* BALOGH, 1958 species.

**Etymology:** The new species is dedicated to my assistant for her valuable help in my studies.

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