

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF ERIOPHYOID MITES  
(ACARI: ERIOPHYOIDEA: DIPTILOMIOPIDAE)  
ON *PHYLLOSTACHYS IRIDESCENS* (POACEAE)  
FROM HUNGARY

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A new diptilomiopid genus and species, *Mucotergum nigrum* Ripka gen. et sp. n., associated with *Phyllostachys iridescens* (Poaceae), are described from Hungary. The prodorsal shield and dorsal semiannuli covered by mucus-like substance. Taxonomically relevant morphological details are illustrated.

Key words: Prostigmata, Diptilomiopidae, new taxa, *Mucotergum*, cock bamboo, Poaceae, Hungary.

## INTRODUCTION

The plant family Poaceae (former Gramineae) is a dominant feature of the Hungarian flora with 229 recognized species in 72 genera (KIRÁLY 2009), representing 8.4 % of vascular plants in Hungary. Knowledge on the eriophyoid mites of poaceous hosts is found wanting. In Hungary only 14 eriophyoid species were recorded from 15 poaceous hosts (RIPKA 2007, 2008). Among several *Phyllostachys* species of Asian origin, cock bamboo (*Phyllostachys iridescens* C. Y. Yao et S. Y. Chen) (Poaceae) is native to Eastern China (i.e. Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui provinces), and was introduced to Europe in 1984 (OHRNBERGER 2002). Out of over 3700 known eriophyoid species only 110 species of 22 genera have been reported from Poaceae worldwide of which 37 were found on bamboos (Poaceae: Bambuseae) (AMRINE & STASNY 1994, 1996, DAVIS *et al.* 1982, LIN *et al.* 2000, XUE *et al.* 2006). *Abacarus korosicsomai* Ripka, 2011 and *Adventacarus turulae* Ripka, 2011 were recently described from greenwax golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys viridiglaucescens* A. Rivière et C. Rivière) in Hungary (RIPKA 2011). These two mite species probably originated in Asia and was introduced to Hungary together with their host plants.

KEIFER (1952) described a new genus and species, *Asetacus madronae* Keifer, 1952 (Diptilomiopidae) from *Arbutus menziesii* Pursh. (Ericaceae), of which the female genital coverflap bears a double rank of short ridges, the gnathosoma large and tapering, scapular setae missing, but tubercles of scapular setae present, basiventral femoral seta *bv* absent on legs I and II, with a short and broad frontal lobe broadly emarginate centrally, and dorsal semiannuli without microtubercles. In Europe, the genus *Asetacus* currently does not include described species (DE LILLO 2012).

Eriophyoid mites were found on *P. iridescens* in Hungary and are described as a new genus and species in this paper.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The eriophyoid mite fauna of cock bamboo, *P. iridescens* was studied from plant samples collected in plastic bag in Szada, Central Hungary, from a private bamboo plantation, in autumn of 2013. The plant material (including upper and lower surfaces of the leaves, leaf sheaths, stems and buds) was examined under a stereo dissecting microscope (Zeiss Stemi 2000-C). Mites found were put directly into lactic acid with the aid of a bent pin (MANSON 1984), or alternatively in Booster mixture (AMRINE & MANSON 1996), lacto phenol or chloral phenol to clear. Alternative methods for clearing were needed due to the mucous layer and dark colour of specimens which prohibited proper clearing. After clearing the specimens in lactic acid or one of the alternative media (for 8–12 weeks at room temperature to obtain the desired extent of clearing), the mites were mounted in Keifer's F-medium with sorbitol (KEIFER 1975), Hoyer's medium (JEPSON *et al.* 1975) or Heinze polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) medium (SCHMUTTERER 1959). The slide-preparations were dried for about four weeks at room temperature, and then sealed with commercial nail varnish (UPTON 1991). Slide-mounted specimens were studied with a phase contrast compound microscope (Nikon Eclipse E 600) equipped with a drawing tube (Nikon Y-IDT). The morphology of *Mucotergum nigrum* Ripka gen. et sp. n. was also investigated with the aid of scanning electron microscopy (SEM) (Zeiss EVO 40 XVP) at the Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. Live mites were collected individually with a fine entomological needle from fresh plant parts under a stereomicroscope and placed on double sided adhesive disc glued to the SEM holder without fixation, dehydration and coating. It is a simple and considerably rapid method to take SEM micrographs. The genus classification is based on AMRINE *et al.* (2003) and comparisons were also made with new genera described since that publication. The terminology and setal notation used in the morphological descriptions follow LINDQUIST (1996). The number of measured specimens (*n*) is given within parentheses in the description. All measurements of mites were made according to AMRINE and MANSON (1996) using an ocular micrometre eyepiece, and are presented in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ). The holotype measurement precedes the corresponding range of the paratypes, in parentheses. Measurements and means are rounded off to the nearest integer, when necessary. All measurements, unless specified otherwise, refer to the length of the structure. The majority of the setae measured are very fine towards the apex.

Nomenclature of host plants is used according to OHRNBERGER (2002) and PLANTS Database (ANONYM 2013).

## RESULTS

Superfamily Eriophyoidea Nalepa, 1898

Family Diptilomiopidae Keifer, 1944

Subfamily Rhyncaphytopinae Roivainen, 1953

**Mucotergum** Ripka gen. n.

Diagnosis. Rhyncaphytopine mites with opisthosoma spindleform and with subequal, microtuberculate dorsal and ventral semiannuli. Tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc* absent; prodorsal shield with a short and rounded frontal lobe. Prodorsal shield and dorsal semiannuli covered by mucus-like layer. Gnathosoma with setae *ep* and *d* present. Coxisternae I and II, and legs I and II with all usual setae, including basiventral femoral seta *bv* present. Female genitalia not appressed to coxae, genital coverflap divided in two parts, with different ornamentation. Empodium undivided. Caudal lobes normal in size, cone shaped and ornamented with longitudinal ridges ventrally and laterally.

Type species. *Mucotergum nigrum* Ripka sp. n.

Etymology. The generic name, *Mucotergum*, is a contraction of the Latin '*mucus*', meaning secretion, mucus and discharge, and Latin '*tergum*', back, shield, body and surface, which relates to the exceptional layer on the dorsal idiosoma. The gender is neuter.

Differential diagnosis. The new genus *Mucotergum* is similar to *Asetacus* Keifer. It clearly differs from *Asetacus* mainly by having all usual setae, including basiventral femoral seta *bv* on both leg pairs, the mucus-like cover on the prodorsal shield and dorsal opisthosoma, the uncommonly dark colour, and lack of tubercles of scapular setae *sc*. The suite of characteristics used to differentiate *Mucotergum* appear to be significant at generic level but, like some other taxa in the Eriophyoidea, the generic concepts and separation of several taxa assigned to subfamily Rhyncaphytopinae are thought to be weak and not based on natural groupings (LINDQUIST & AMRINE 1996). So far, only two eriophyoid mites are known, which produce clear liquid secretion on their body: *Hoderus globulus* (Mohanasundaram, 1981) and *Hyborhinus kallarensis* Mohanasundaram, 1986 (cit. MANSON & GERSON 1996). Both diptilomiopid species were described from India, and both have tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc*. The mucus-like secretion on prodorsal shield and dorsal semiannuli is an unusual feature in eriophyoid mites.

**Mucotergum nigrum** Ripka sp. n.  
(Figs 1–4)

**Diagnosis.** Body spindleform; prodorsal shield with granules, weak shield pattern is composed of two faint incomplete, sinuate admedian lines beginning at posterior margin of the shield, two incomplete submedian lines, median line absent; tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc* absent, dorsal palp genual setae *d* simple. Prodorsal shield and dorsal semiannuli covered by mucus-like substance. Subequal and microtuberculate dorsal and ventral semiannuli. Coxisternae I and II and legs I and II with all standard setae; empodium entire, 7–8-rayed; female genital coverflap divided in two parts, with different ornamentation. Caudal lobes normal in size, cone shaped, and ornamented with several longitudinal ridges ventrally and laterally.

**Description.** Female (n = 11). Body shiny grey to black, spindleform, curved, 202 (153–210), 64 (60–72) wide, 72 (60–73) thick. Prodorsal shield and dorsal annuli covered by mucus-like substance. Gnathosoma large 46 (39–46), abruptly bent down near base, chelicerae curved and bent down 40 (33–42), pedipalps attenuate, with pedipalp coxal setae *ep* present, dorsal palp genual setae *d* 4 (4–5), simple; distinct cheliceral retainer 2 (2–3). Prodorsal shield 52 (46–56), 71 (65–72) wide, semicircular; with a short and rounded frontal lobe 3 (2–4); shield ornamentation weak, composed of two faint incomplete, sinuate admedian lines beginning at posterior margin of the shield, two incomplete submedian lines, median line absent; sparsely dashes and granules on the prodorsal shield. Tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc* absent. Fine granules laterally in rows between shield margin and dorsal coxae of legs I and II, and on dorsal coxae.

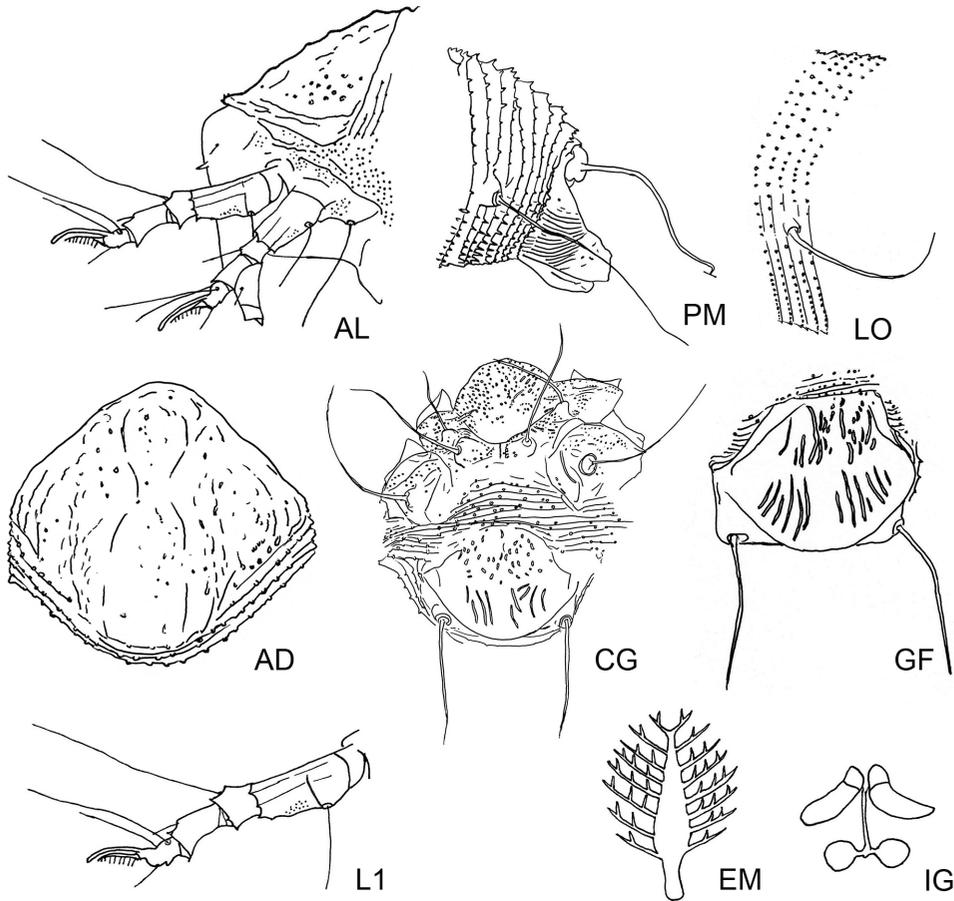
Legs with all usual segments and setae present. Leg I 42 (37–45), femur 16 (14–17), owing to a transversal ridge ventrally and laterally seemingly two-segmented and with fine granules, basiventral femoral seta *bv* 16 (15–19), genu 5 (5–6), antaxial genual seta *l''* 36 (28–37) close to the distal end, tibia 10 (8–11), paraxial tibial seta *l'* located at  $\frac{2}{3}$  ( $\frac{2}{3}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ ) from dorsal base, 5 (5–7), tarsus 6 (5–7), paraxial, unguinal tarsal seta *u'* 7 (6–7), solenidion  $\omega$  10 (8–10), blunt, curved, empodium simple, 9 (8–10), 8-rayed (7–9), some specimens with asymmetrical empodium (7/8; 8/9). Leg II 38 (33–40), femur 15 (13–16) with fine granules ventrally, basiventral femoral seta *bv* 21 (20–27), genu 5 (4–6), antaxial genual seta *l''* 10 (10–13), very fine, tibia 9 (7–10), tarsus 6 (5–7), paraxial, unguinal tarsal seta *u'* 5 (4–6), solenidion  $\omega$  10 (9–10) subequal with solenidion  $\omega$  on leg I, blunt, curved, empodium simple, 8 (7–9), 7-rayed (7–8), some specimens with asymmetrical empodium (7/8). Longitudinal ridges dorsally and laterally on femora I and II. Distinct spinules distally on femora, genua and tibiae on both leg pairs.

Coxisternae I and II ornamented with granules and short lines; anterolateral setae on coxisternum I, setae *1b* 11 (10–13), tubercles setae *1b* 15 (13–19) apart, proximal setae on coxisternum I, setae *1a* 24 (20–27), tubercles setae *1a* 8 (8–10) apart, proximal setae on coxisternum II, setae *2a* 29 (26–42), tubercles setae *2a* 24 (23–31) apart, with curved lines. Subcapitular plate round, with many fine granules. Prosternal apodeme 6 (6–7). Coxigenital area with 7–8 microtuberculate annuli.

Opisthosoma with 64 (56–65) dorsal, 66 (60–69) ventral semiannuli. Dorsal semiannuli with pointed microtubercles on rear annular margin. On ventral semiannuli the micro-

tubercles are pointed close to the rear annular margin, except for the 8–10 ventral semianuli from caudal lobes, which are elongate and linear. Opisthosomal setae *c*2 57 (30–62), on annulus 9 (9–12), 42 (40–53) apart; opisthosomal setae *d* 79 (51–79), on annulus 22 (20–26), 35 (33–43) apart; opisthosomal setae *e* 65 (45–65), on annulus 41 (38–44), 25 (23–28) apart; opisthosomal setae *f* 37 (35–40), on annulus 58 (53–62), or 7 (7–9) from the rear, 19 (18–26) apart, all very fine at apex. Opisthosomal seta *h*2 85 (85–98), 8 (8–10) apart; seta *h*1 absent. Caudal lobes normal in size and cone shaped, ornamented with 11–14 longitudinal ridges ventrally and laterally.

Genital plate 22 (15–22), 24 (23–25) wide, a moderate distance behind coxae, not appressed to coxae. Female genital coverflap divided in two parts, anterior part with irregu-



**Fig. 1.** *Mucotergum nigrum* Ripka sp. n., semischematic drawing. Abbreviations: AD = pro-dorsal shield, AL = lateral view of anterior body region, CG = female coxigenital region, EM = empodium of leg I, GF = genital region of female, IG = internal female genitalia, L1 = leg I, LO = lateral view of annuli, PM = lateral view of posterior opisthosoma.

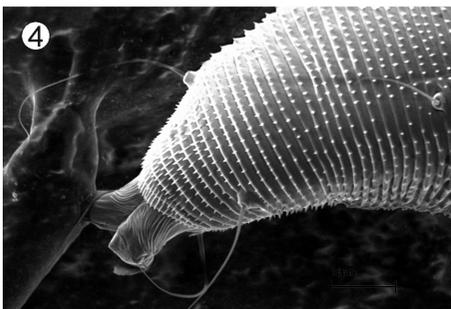
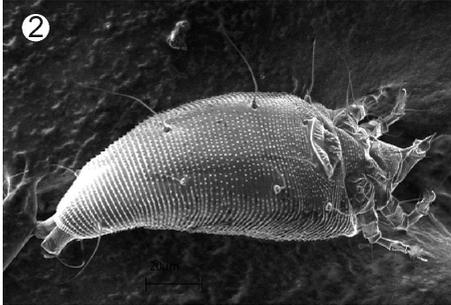
lar short ridges, dashes and lines of granules, or only dashes and granules; posteriorly 10–14 ridges; coxisternal III setae *3a* 23 (22–31), 19 (18–20) apart.

Male (*n* = 2). Similar to the female, shiny grey to black, spindleform, 163–170, 57 wide, 60 thick. Prodorsal shield and dorsal annuli covered by mucus-like secretion. Gnathosoma 35–37, pedipalps attenuate, dorsal palp genual setae *d* 2–3, simple; distinct cheliceral retainer 1–2. Prodorsal shield 47–49, 60–63 wide, semicircular; with a short, bluntly rounded frontal lobe 3; the shield ornamentation weak, composed of two faint incomplete, sinuate admedian lines beginning at posterior margin of the shield, two incomplete submedian lines, median line absent; sparsely dashes and granules on the prodorsal shield. Tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc* absent. Fine granules laterally in rows between shield margin and dorsal coxae of legs I and II, and on dorsal coxae.

Legs with all usual segments and setae present. Leg I 32–33, femur 12–13, due to a transversal ridge ventrally and laterally seemingly two-segmented and with fine granules, basiventral femoral seta *bv* 16–17, genu 5, antiaxial genual seta *l'* 25–29 close to the distal end, tibia 7–8, paraxial tibial seta *l'* located at  $\frac{2}{3}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  from dorsal base, 7–8, tarsus 6, paraxial, unguinal tarsal seta *u'* 5, solenidion  $\omega$  9, blunt, curved, empodium simple, 7, 7-rayed (7–8). Leg II 30–31, femur 12–13; basiventral femoral seta *bv* 17–18, ventrally with fine granules, genu 5, antiaxial genual seta *l''* 7–8 very fine, tibia 6, tarsus 5, paraxial, unguinal tarsal seta *u'* 5, solenidion  $\omega$  9 subequal with solenidion  $\omega$  on leg I, blunt, curved, empodium simple, 6, 6-rayed (5–6). Longitudinal ridges dorsally on femora I and II. Distinct spinules distally on femora, genua and tibiae on both leg pairs.

Coxisternae I and II ornamented with granules and short lines; anterolateral setae on coxisternum I, setae *1b* 12, tubercles setae *1b* 13 apart, proximal setae on coxisternum I, setae *1a* 15, tubercles setae *1a* 8 apart, proximal setae on coxisternum II, setae *2a* 35, tubercles setae *2a* 20 apart, with curved lines. Subcapitular plate round, with many fine granules. Prosternal apodeme 5. Coxigenital area with 7–8 microtuberculate annuli.

Opisthosoma with 56–58 dorsal, 63–64 ventral semiannuli. Dorsal semiannuli with pointed microtubercles on rear annular margin. On ventral semiannuli the microtubercles are pointed close to the rear annular



**Figs 2–4.** *Mucotergum nigrum* Ripka sp. n.: 2 = ventral aspect of female, 3 = dorsal aspect of probably female, 4 = ventral aspect of opisthosoma of female with caudal lobes (SEM micrographs by L. Szabó).

margin, except for the 5–6 ventral semiannuli from caudal lobes, which are elongate and linear. Opisthosomal setae *c2* 28, on annulus 11, 40 apart; opisthosomal setae *d* 48, on annulus 22, 29 apart; opisthosomal setae *e* 40, on annulus 38, 22 apart; opisthosomal setae *f* 25, on annulus 56, or 7–8 from the rear, 19 apart, all very fine at apex. Seta *h1* absent. Caudal lobes normal in size and cone shaped, ornamented with 11–14 longitudinal ridges ventrally and laterally.

Genital part 14, 20 wide, not appressed to coxae. Coxisternal III setae *3a* 22–23, 18 apart.

Nymph (n = 1). Similar to the female, shiny grey, spindleform, 170, 70 thick. Gnathosoma 40. Prodorsal shield 45, 53 wide. Tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc* absent. Legs with all usual segments and setae present. Leg I 28, femur 11, genu 4, antaxial genual seta *l''* 22, tibia 6, paraxial tibial seta *l'* located at ½ from dorsal base, 4, tarsus 4, solenidion  $\omega$  6, slightly curved, blunt, empodium simple, 6, 6-rayed. Leg II 25, femur 9, basiventral femoral seta *bv* 9, genu 3, antaxial genual seta *l''* 7, very fine, tibia 6, tarsus 5, solenidion  $\omega$  7, slightly curved, blunt, empodium simple, 6, 6-rayed.

Proximal seta on coxisternum I, *1a* 12. Opisthosoma with 52 dorsal, 52 ventral semiannuli. Microtubercles fine points close to the rear annular margins dorsally and ventrally. Opisthosomal setae *d* 35, on annulus 19; setae *e* 28, on annulus 31; setae *f* 20, on annulus 46, or 6 from the rear. Setae *h1* absent. Caudal lobes normal. Coxisternal III setae *3a* 15.

Larva: not seen.

Host plant. Cock bamboo, *Phyllostachys iridescens* C.Y. Yao & S.Y. Chen (Poaceae: Bambuseae).

Relation to the host plant. This vagrant mite was found sparsely on lower side of leaves. Leaf discoloration and slight yellowing were observed.

Locality. Szada, Pest County (Central Hungary), 47°38'9.5" N, 19°20'3.2" E, 260 m elev. The host grows in a private garden of the third author.

Type material. Holotype female circled with black ink among 12 paratype females and 1 female of *Abacarus turulae* Ripka, 2011 on one slide, 15 November 2013, slide # 1333a, coll. A. Neményi. Paratypes: 11 females collected from the same locality and date mounted on slide # 1333c, coll. A. Neményi, 6 females and 1 male collected from the same locality on 16 September 2013, from underside of leaves, mounted on slide # 1332K; coll. A. Neményi in the senior author's collection deposited in the Department of Pest Management Development and Coordination, Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment, National Food Chain Safety Office, Budapest, Hungary. The new species was found together with the specimens of *Abacarus turulae* Ripka covered with wax plates. *A. turulae* was collected from the underside of the leaves, among hairs near the midrib, close to the leaf base.

Etymology. The specific name, *nigrum*, is derived from the Latin '*nigrum*', meaning blackish or dark, relating to the uncommon colour of the mite.

Differential diagnosis. The new species herein described is similar to *Asetacus linderiae* Wang, Wei et Yang described from *Lindera* sp. (Lauraceae) (WANG *et al.* 2010). The scapular tubercles set ahead of rear shield margin, prodorsal shield sculptured with granules and 12 irregular lines, the genital coverflap sculptured with basal 23 and distal 26 longitudinal ridges. It has 6-rayed empodium, and seta *h1*. The basiventral femoral setae absent on leg

I and leg II. Whereas characters of *Mucotergum nigrum* Ripka gen. et sp. n. are the tubercles of scapular setae *sc* and setae *sc* absent, the 7–8-rayed empodium, irregular short ridges, dashes and lines of granules, or only dashes and granules anteriorly, and 10–14 ridges posteriorly on genital coverflap, pointed microtubercles on annuli, presence of basiventral femoral setae *bv* on both leg pairs, seta *h1* absent, and especially mucus-like secretion on prodorsal shield and dorsal semiannuli. Caudal lobes normal in size and cone shaped, and ornamented with longitudinal ridges ventrally and laterally. Its host plant is *Phyllostachys iridescens*, leaf discoloration occurred.

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