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REDESCRIPTION OF PAPILLACARUS HIRSUTUS WITH REMARKS ON TAXONOMIC STATUS OF PAPILLACARUS ARBORISETA (ACARI: ORIBATIDA: LOHMANNIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT — The adult instar of an oribatid mite, Papillacarus hirsutus (Aoki, 1961) is redescribed, including the first detailed descriptions of the gnathosoma and legs. Some morphological characters of P. hirsutus from different regions (Japan, Vietnam, China, Tahiti, Philippines) are analyzed, and P. arboriseta Jeleva and Vu, 1987 is recognized as a junior synonym of the former species.

KEYWORDS — oribatid mites; Lohmanniidae; Papillacarus hirsutus; Papillacarus arboriseta; redescription; morphology; taxonomic status

INTRODUCTION

The oribatid mite family Lohmanniidae comprises 21 genera and 192 species that are collectively distributed in the pantropical and subtropical regions of the world (Subías 2004, online version 2010). Papillacarus is a lohmanniid genus that was proposed by Kunst (1959) with Lohmannia murcioides aciculata Berlese, 1904 as type species. It is one of the largest genera in the family, comprising more than 25 species, the majority of which have restricted geographical distribution.

Papillacarus hirsutus (Aoki, 1961) was described as Cryptacarus hirsutus from Japan. Subsequent collections showed it to be distributed more widely in tropical regions and the oriental part of Palearctic (Subías 2004, online version 2010). The original description (Aoki 1961) of this species was incomplete (lacking, for example, important information about the gnathosoma and legs), even after some subsequent redescriptions (Hammer 1972; Corpuz-Raros 1979; Wen et al. 1984). Our main objective is to provide a more complete redescription of this species. We also discuss the taxonomic status of P. arboriseta, which was briefly described by Jeleva and Vu (1987), based on specimens from northern Vietnam. These authors compared P. arboriseta only with P. ramosus Balogh, 1961, but they did not notice the great similarity of their species with P. hirsutus. As the differences between these two species were unclear, Balogh and Balogh (2002) considered P. arboriseta as a species inquirenda. Below, we compare topotypes of these two species and conclude that they are conspecific.
Four adults (topotype materials) of *P. hirsutus* were obtained from two places in Central Vietnam: 1) 17°22’ N, 105°45’ E, Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, a World Heritage site, 143 – 151 (mean 146). Three specimens from central Vietnam: body length 356 – 360 (mean 359), body width 147 – 155 (mean 151).

Integument — Body yellowish to light brown. Surface of body and legs with dense papillae; dorsal papillae conical (length up to 6 µm), lateral papillae conical (length up to 6 µm) (Figures 8, 10).

Prodrorum — (Figure 1A, C–E). Roughly triangular in dorsal view, occupying about 1/3 of total body length. Rostrum slightly rounded or truncate in dorsal view, colorless (Figure 1C). Rostral (24 – 28), lamellar (20 – 24), interlamellar (20 – 24), anterior (20 – 24) and posterior (20 – 28) exobothridial setae similar in morphology, branched (central core of setae setiform, with long cilia; genital plates with branched or heterogeneous (branched and setiform) setae; genital setae branched; two pairs of anal short, interrupted medially; notogastral setae multiply branched; two pairs of anal (an1, an2) and four pairs of anal (an1, an4) (Figures 1C–D). Sensilli (49 – 57) pectinate, with 13 or 14 branches in one side; two pairs of transverse bands well developed (S3 and S4), both interrupted medially; notogastral setae similar in morphology, branched (central core of setae setiform, with long cilia; genital plates with branched or heterogeneous (branched and setiform) setae; genital setae branched; two pairs of anal short, interrupted medially; notogastral setae multiply branched; two pairs of anal (an1, an2) and four pairs of anal (an1, an4) (Figures 1C–D). Sensilli (49 – 57) pectinate, with 13 or 14 branches in one side; two or four short cilia on other side (Figure 1E).

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Notogaster — (Figure 1A; Figure 2A–C). Dorsoscutal suture straight. Two pairs of transverse bands well-developed (S3 and S4), both interrupted medially. Band S2 always absent, but indistinct line rarely present. Only eight pairs of notogastral setae (c1, c2, c5, d1, d2, d3, c1, c2) well visible, other notogastral setae are difficult for differentiating between numerous neotrichial setae.
Figure 1: *Papillacarus hirsutus*, adult. A – dorsal view; B – ventral view, gnathosoma and legs removed; C – rostrum and rostral setae; D – interlamellar seta; E – sensillus. Scale bar (A + B) 100 µm, scale bar (C, D, E) 10 µm.
Figure 2: *Papillacarus hirsutus*, adult. A – neotrichial seta with short thinner tip and papillae of notogaster, lateral view; B – neotrichial seta with long thinner tip; C – neotrichial setae and papillae of notogaster, dorsal view; D – genital plate with branched setae, right; E – genital plate with heterogeneous (branched and setiform) setae, right; F – anoanal plates, right. Scale bar (A + B + C) 10 µm, scale bar (D + E) 20 µm, scale bar (F) 50 µm.
FIGURE 3: Papillacarus hirsutus, adult. A – epimera 1 and 2, left; B – epimera 3 and 4, left; C – epimeral seta 3a; D – epimeral seta 3b; E – seta of epimera 1, near subcapitulum; F – subcapitulum; G – palp; H – chelicera. Scale bar (A, B, J) 20 µm, scale bar (C + D + E) 10 µm, scale bar (F, H) 50 µm.
Figure 4: *Papillacarus hirsutus*, adult. A – leg I, without trochanter, right, antiaxial view; B – leg II, without trochanter, right, antiaxial view; C – leg III, left, antiaxial view; D – leg IV, without trochanter, left, antiaxial view. Scale bar (A + B + C + D) 20 μm.
All setae similar in morphology, multiply branched, with short or sometimes very longer thinner tips (in lateral view) and stellate (in dorsal view) (Figure 2A–C). Lateral, caudal and ventrolateral setae (24 – 32) longer than dorsal setae (12 – 20).

Anogenital region — (Figure 1B; Figure 2D–F). One pair of ventrolateral bands present. Two pairs of anal (20 – 24) and four pairs of anal (24 – 28) setae setiform, with long cilia (Figure 2F). Genital setae (16 – 20) branched, but four specimens (two from central Vietnam and two from southern Vietnam) with heterogeneous genital setae (seven pairs branched, three pairs setiform, longer, 20 – 24) (Figures 9–11).

Epimeral region — (Figure 1B; Figure 3A–E). Typical for genus. Epimeres I and II neotrichous, setal formula: 8(seldom 9)-4-3-4. Medial setae 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a and often setae 1d setiform, smooth, other setae branched or setiform, ciliate.

Gnathosoma — (Figure 3F–H). Sub capitulum longer than wide, 98 – 106 x 82 – 86. Hypostomal setae a 24 – 26, setiform, thickened, smooth; setae m1, m2 and m3 slightly shorter, 20 – 24, setiform, with cilia; setae h1 and h2 (sometimes h2 absent) shorter than m, 16 – 20, setiform, thickened, with cilia. Three pairs of adoral setae present: or2 longest, 32 – 36, setiform, thickened, smooth, blunt-ended; or3 shorter, 22 – 26, setiform, thickened in proximal part and thin tip, smooth; or1 shortest, 16 – 20, wide, lobe-form. Palps 45 – 49, with setation 0-1-0-1-9(+1ω). Distal three setae fused basally. Solenidion long, thick. Chelicerae 123 – 135, chelate-dentate. Cheliceral setae chb long, 32 – 36, setiform, smooth; setae cha minute, thorn-like, thin.

Legs — (Figure 4A–D). All claws with strong thorn ventrally. Formulae of leg setation and solenidia: leg I (0-6-3-4-18) [2-1-2], leg II (0-6-3-4-13) [1-1-2], leg III (2-4-2-3-12) [1-1-0], leg IV (2-3-2-3-12) [1-0-0]; homology of setae and solenidia indicated in Table 1. Most setae with long cilia. Setae it on tarsi II-IV short, thin. Famulus conical, small, thickened. Solenidia ω1 on tarsi I, ω2 and ω3 on tarsi II, σ on tibiae III rod-like, thickened, blunt-ended. Other solenidia long, setiform, with thinner tips.

Morphological variability of Papillacarus hirsutus

Some morphological characters of P. hirsutus are variable (body size; shape of rostrum, sensilli and genital setae; epimeral setation) in specimens from different regions (Japan, Vietnam, China, Tahiti, Philippines) (our data; Aoki 1961; Hammer 1972; Corpuz-Raros 1979; Wen et al. 1984; Jeleva and Vu 1987). A compilation of these differences is presented in Table 2.

Taxonomic status of P. arboriseta

According to the literature, P. arboriseta differs from P. hirsutus in only two characters (compare Jeleva and Vu 1987 with Aoki 1961; Hammer 1972; Corpuz-Raros 1979; Wen et al. 1984): 1) sensilli with 7-8 cilia (13-14 in P. hirsutus), 2) neotrichial setae absent (present in P. hirsutus). However these differences are probably illusory, because:

1. apparent differences in numbers of cilia on sensilli (7 – 8 to 13 – 14) can be considered as morphological variability. All compared four toptype materials of P. arboriseta from central Vietnam carrying sensilli with 13-14 cilia.

2. absence of neotrichial setae is obviously a misinterpretation. Some such setae are well visible in Figures 1a, 1b of Jeleva and Vu (1987, p. 11). Unfortunately, the figures of P. arboriseta provided by above authors are small-sized, so it is difficult to determine the exact number of neotrichial setae. All compared four toptype materials of P. arboriseta from central Vietnam show strongly developed neotrichial setae.

We compared toptotypes of P. hirsutus from Japan, toptotypes of P. arboriseta from central Vietnam and additional specimens from southern Vietnam. All were nearly identical morphologically. Thus, there are no clear distinctions between P. arboriseta and P. hirsutus, therefore we consider them as conspecific. In accordance with the principle of priority, P. arboriseta is deemed a junior subjective synonym of P. hirsutus.
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TABLE 1: Leg setation and solenidia of adult Papillacarus hirsutus

| Leg | Trochanter | Femur | Genu | Tibia | Tarsus |
|-----|------------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| I   | -          | $d$, ($l_1$), $l_2''$, $bv''$, $v''$ | $d$, $l'$, $v'$, $\sigma''$ | $l_4$, $l_2'$, $v'$, $\phi$ | ($ft$), ($tc$), ($it$), ($u$), ($a$), $s$, ($pv$), $n$, $m$, $e$, $\omega_1$, $\omega_2$ |
| II  | -          | $d$, ($l_1$), $l_2''$, $bv''$, $v''$ | $d$, ($l$), $\sigma$ | $l_4$, $l_2'$, $v'$, $\phi$ | ($ft$), ($tc$), ($it$), ($u$), ($a$), $s$, ($pv$), $\omega_1$, $\omega_2$ |
| III | $l'$, $v'$ | $d$, $l_1'$, $l_2'$, $ev'$ | $d$, $l'$, $\sigma$ | $d$, $l'$, $v'$, $\phi$ | ($ft$), ($tc$), ($it$), ($u$), ($a$), $s$, $pv'$ |
| IV  | $l'$, $v'$ | $d$, $l'$, $ev'$ | $d$, $l'$, $\sigma$ | $d$, $l'$, $v'$ | ($ft$), ($tc$), ($it$), ($u$), ($a$), $s$, $pv'$ |

Roman letters refer to normal setae ($e$ to famulus), Greek letters to solenidia. Single prime (') marks setae on anterior and double prime (" ) setae on posterior side of the given leg segment. Parentheses refer to a pair of setae.

TABLE 2: Variability of some morphological characters in adult Papillacarus hirsutus

| Character | Our data | Literature data from: |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| Body length | 336–360 | Aoki (1961) Hammer (1972) Corpuz-Raros (1979) Wen et al. (1984) Jeleva and Vu (1987)* |
| Body width | 143–155 | Data absent |
| Rostrum | Slightly rounded or truncate | Slightly rounded or truncate With concavity in the middle Slightly rounded or truncate Truncate Slightly rounded or truncate |
| Number of sensillar cilia | 13–14 | 13–14 13 13 |
| Genital setae | Branched or branched + setiform | Branched Setiform Data absent Branched Setiform |
| Epimeral formula | 8(9)–4–3–4 | 7–4–3–4 8–4–3–4 |

*In paper this species referred to as Papillacarus arboriseta.
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