

A NEW SPECIES OF LEPTUS FROM PAKISTAN (ACARINA: ERYTH RAEIDAE)

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A new species of mite belonging to genus *Leptus latrielle*, 1795 (= *Achorolophus* Berlese, 1891) has been described from Karachi out of a collection of 60 female specimens. Morphological description has been given and the species has been compared with the closely related species, *Leptus vilosus* Berlese, 1910.

***Leptus karachiensis* sp. nov.** (Fig 1-7)

Dimension: Body length, excluding gnathosoma, 1.124 mm; width 0.794 mm (means of 10 specimens).

Dorsum: Dark red, oval mite with numerous rod-like lightly pigmented setose 0.022 mm long setae. Crista stout, 0.453 mm long, extending

up to the level of coxae III; anterior sensillary area with a pair of finely setose, 0.08 mm long sensillary setae and 8 stout densely setose nonsensillary setae; posterior sensillary area pear shaped, with a pair of finely setose sensillary setae 0.112 mm long. A pair of well-developed lenslike eyes on either side above the anterior half of the crista; each eye 0.125 mm away from the crista.

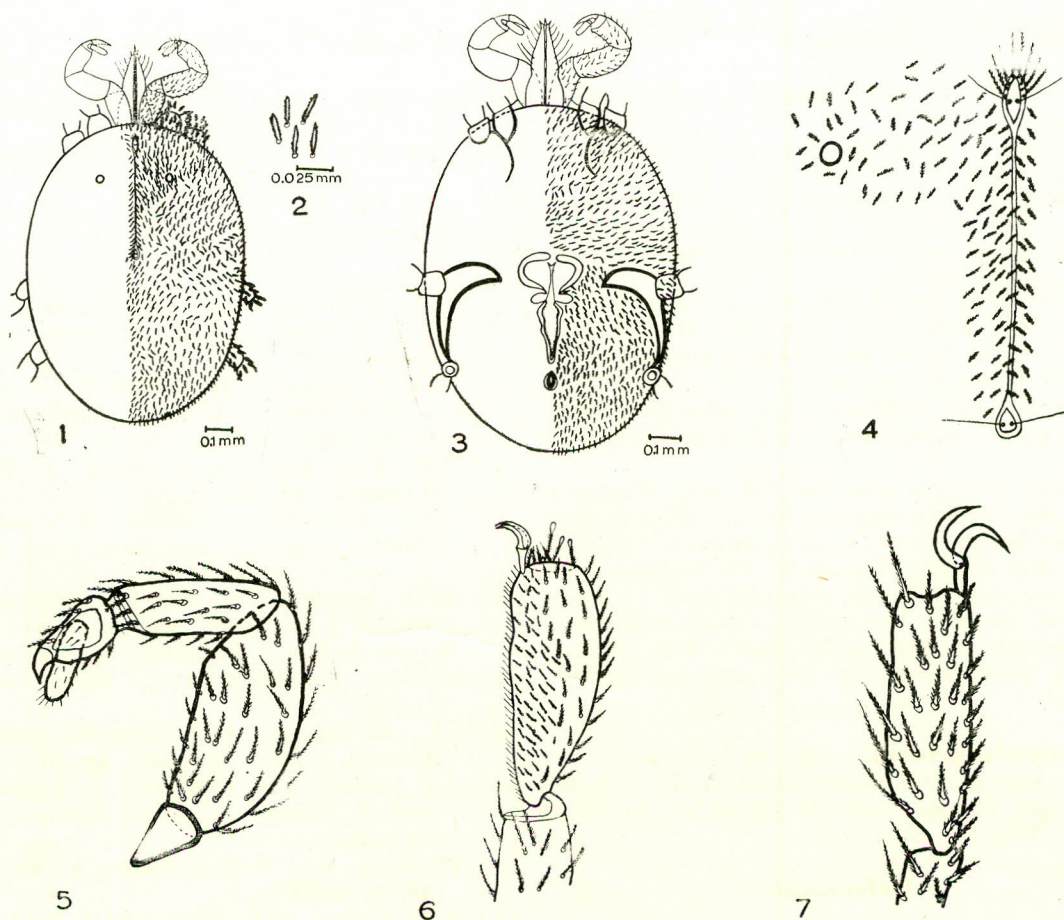


Fig. 1.—*Leptus karachiensis* n. sp. (dorsum of female). Fig. 2.—Dorsal seta. Fig. 3.—*Leptus karachiensis* n. sp. (venter of female). Fig. 4.—Crista. Fig. 5.—Pedipalp. Fig. 6.—Tarsus I. Fig. 7.—Tarsus IV.

Ventrum: Ventral body setae numerous, similar to that of dorsal setae. Genital area typical as illustrated, lying between the hind coxae, and the anal opening close behind it. Genital suckers lacking. Chelicerae long, unsegmented, needle-like retractile and toothed distally. Palps 5-segmented, palpal tibiae with a strong claw, palpal thumb rod-like with numerous small simple setae.

Leg moderately long 7-segmented; I 1.652 mm., II 0.952 mm, III 0.865 mm, IV 1.862., including coxae and claws, coxae I and II separated from coxae III and IV, leg setae same as that of dorsum but twice as long; metatarsi of first leg swollen, longer than tarsi, with 2 short claws and with 3 types of setae, empodium lacking; tarsi I, 4 times as long as wide. The above description is based on a female as no males could be found in the collection.

Leptus karachiensis, sp. nov. resembles with *Leptus villosus* Berlese¹ but differs from it by the ratio of

body length and width, in the length of crista, dorsal setae, sensillary setae on sensillary areas of crista and in the length of the legs. Moreover, from the latter the new species is readily distinguished by having 8 instead of 6 setose sensillary setae on the anterior sensillary area of crista and in possessing 3 instead of 2 types of setae on meta-tarsi I.

Holotype (female) Karachi (West Pakistan), July 2, 1969 (Mohammad Sadiq) collected from decomposed and decaying leaves of cotton (*Gossypium herbaceum*).

Paratypes 59, same data deposited in the Acarological collection of the Entomology Section, P.C.S.I.R. Laboratories, Karachi.

References

1. Nandini S. Khot, *Studies on Indian Erythraeoidea (Acarina) Series III-Mites of the Subfamily Leptinae Southcott*, *Acarologia*, **VI**(4), 686 (1964).