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New oribatid species of the genus *Crotonia* from Brazil (*Acari: Crotoniidae*)

ZIEMOWIT OLSZANOWSKI

Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, A. Mickiewicz University Szamarzewskiego 91 A,
60-569 Poznań; e-mail: olszanow@hum.amu.edu.pl

ABSTRACT. A new oribatid mite, *Crotonia marlenae* n. sp. is described from Brazil from wet litter of tropical mountain forest.

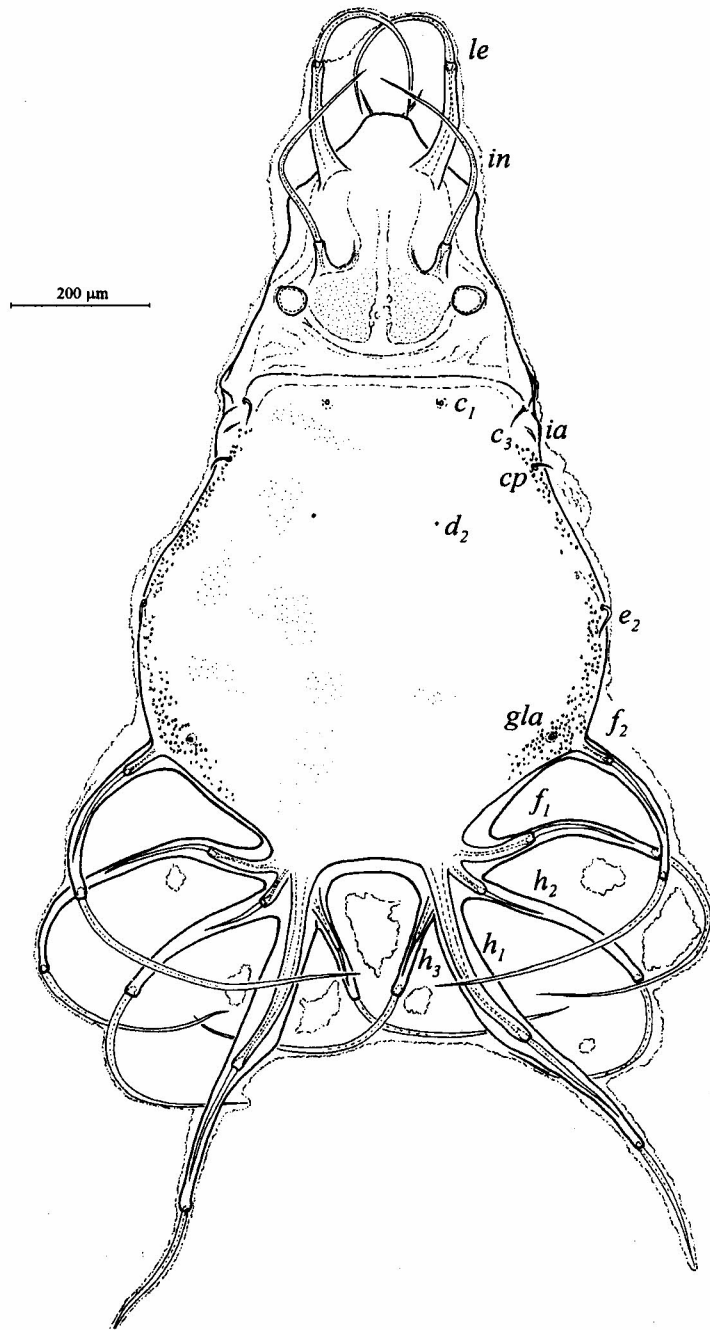
Key words: Acarology, taxonomy, new species, Brazil, *Acari*, *Oribatida*, *Crotonioidea*.

INTRODUCTION

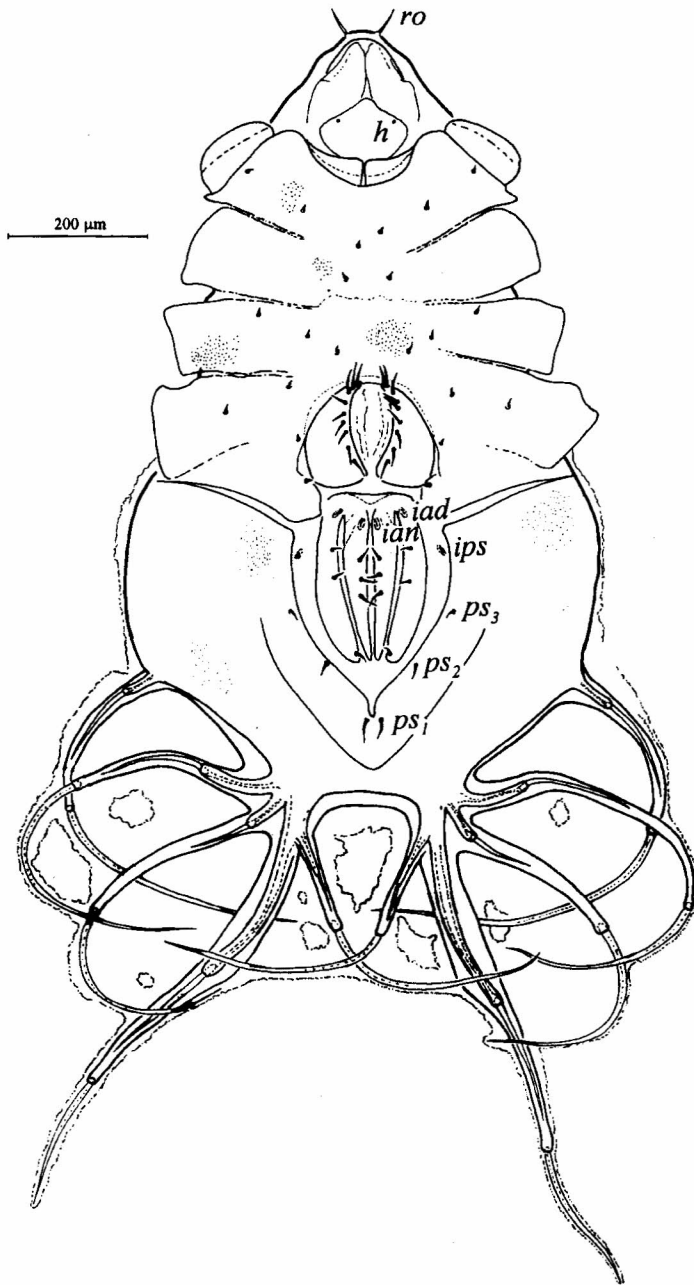
From among over thirty species of the genus *Crotonia* described so far, only three come from Neotropical region: *C. pulchra* (BECK, 1962) from Peru, *C. flagellata* (BALOGH et CSISZÁR, 1963) from Argentina and Chile, and *C. chiloensis* WALLWORK, 1978 from Chile. The available data on the distribution of this genus (NORTON & OLSZANOWSKI 1989) and results of the studies by the author are indicative of the presence of a considerable number of new species belonging to the family *Crotoniidae* in the area of South America. This paper is the first of the series of works on the fauna of crotoniid mites of the Neotropical region.

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1. *Crotonia marlenae* n. sp., holotype, dorsal view



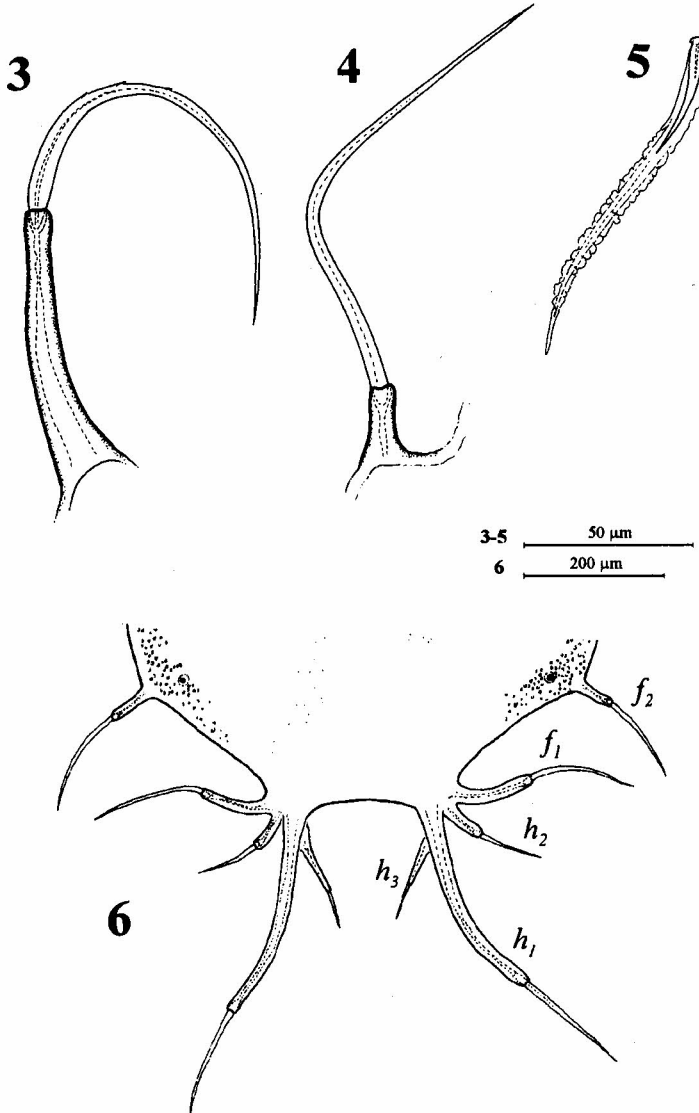
2. *Crotonia marlenae* n. sp., holotype, ventral view

Crotonia marlenae n. sp.

Body length: 1150 mm; maximum body width: 710 mm.

Colour: light brown to brown.

Body covered with cerotegument with some dirt and debris and, in posterior part, with fragments of tritonymphal exuvium.



3-6. *Crotonia marlenae* n. sp., holotype: 3 - lamellar seta, 4 - interlamellar seta; 5 - seta I4 (tarsus I); 6 - posterior part of notogaster without tritonymphal exuvium

Prodorsum (Figs. 1, 3, 4)

Rostrum elongated. Two pairs of sclerified ridges present on dorsal part: one pair runs anteromedially from near bothridia and bears setae *in*, the other runs posteromedially from bothridia to be distally joined. Prodorsal surface delicately pointed. Rostral setae (*ro*) direct, smooth, situated on small tubercles. Lamellar setae (*le*) curved, indistinctly serrated, on long, slightly curved medially apophyses (Fig. 3); tips of apophyses distinctly go beyond rostrum. Interlamellar setae (*in*) situated on shorter apophyses, smooth, bent medially (Fig. 4); their tips reach distal parts of lamellar apophyses. Sensillus completely contained within bothridium.

Notogaster (Figs 1, 6)

Notogaster distinctly enlarged posterodorsally; broadest at level between setae e_2 . Dorsal plate flat, demarcated laterally by plicature strip; surface finely porose, lateral parts with small, round cavities. With 12 pairs of smooth notogastral setae (setae c_2 absent, setae d_2 probably represented only by alveoli), setae c_3 removed of specimen. Setae c_3 and *cp* situated in close vicinity ($c_1-c_3 > c_3-cp$). Both setae c_1 situated far from each other ($c_1-c_1 > c_1-c_3$). Setae of the rows *f* and *h* on distinct apophyses; apophyses of the setae h_1 more than twice longer than others. Apophyses of setae f_1 and row *h* situated very close, form two groups, distinctly separated between pair of apophyses of setae h_1 . Setae of row *ps* not inserted in small tubercles; ps_1 slightly longer than ps_2 , and ps_3 . Five pairs of lyrifissures in normal position for genus; opisthosomal gland opening (*gla*) near the base of setae f_2 .

Ventral region (Fig. 2)

Coxisternal pairs fused medially, surface distinctly porose. Coxisternal setation: 3-1-3-2, setae short, spiniform. Nine pairs of genital setae, all near medial margin of plate. Two pairs of aggenital setae. Anal and adanal plates with 3 pairs of setae.

Legs (Figs. 5, 7-9)

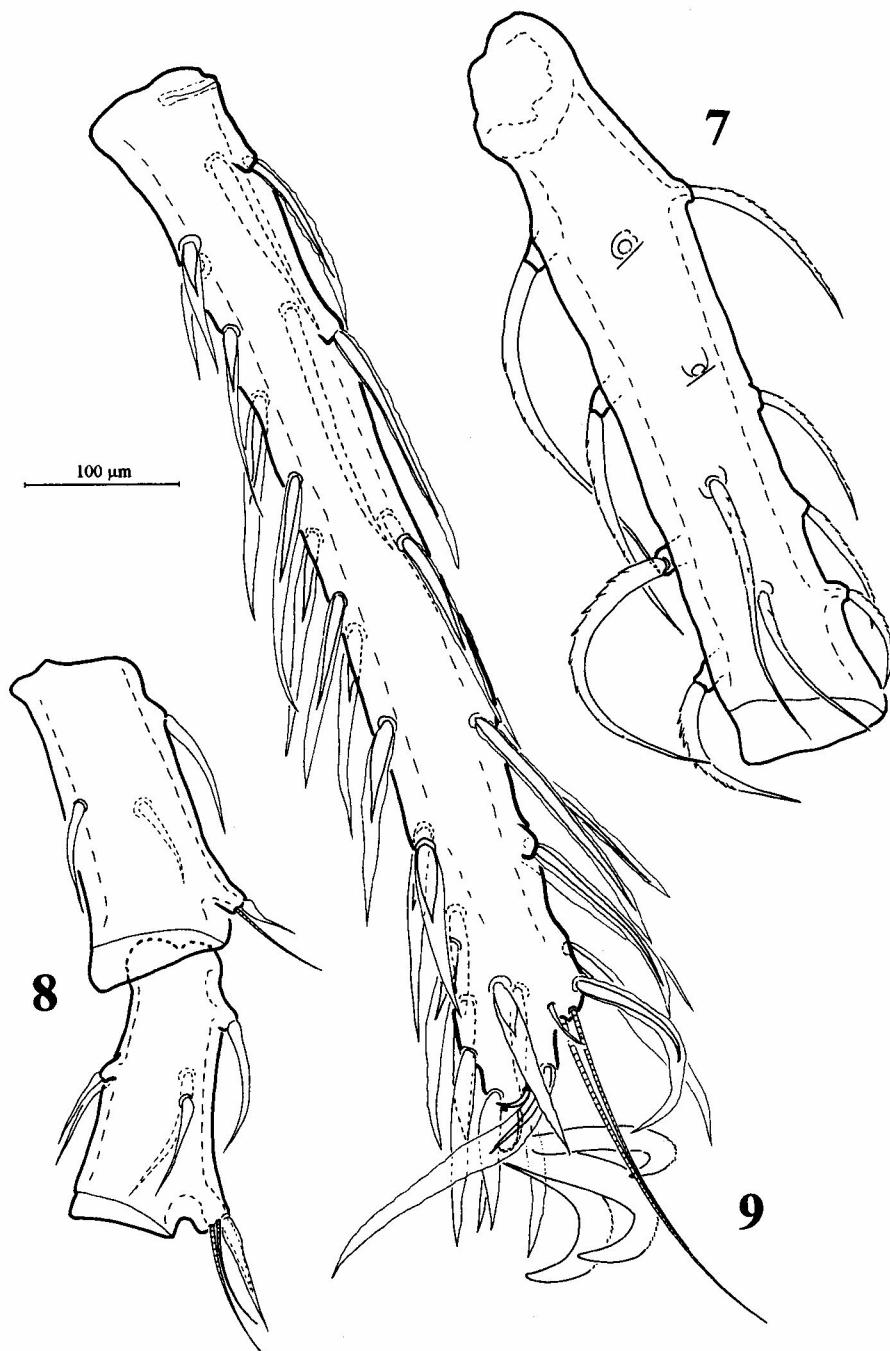
Tarsi homotridactylous, claws with dorsal hyaline teeth. Setae inserted on short apophyses. Setae built of a shorter, thicker core with inner tubule and a longer external part covered with delicate partially corrugated "sheath" (Fig. 5). Setation (including famulus): I: 1-12-4(1)-6(2)-36(2); II: 1-11-5(1)-6(1)-32(2); III: 5-9-5(1)-5(1)-30; IV: 1-8-4(1)-4(1)-30.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype (adult female) was collected from: Brazil, Serra do Mar, env. of Parati, alt. 1300 m, tropical mountain forest, very wet rich litter. Leg. J. BALOGH [Br.90/B.90]. Specimen is deposited in the Hungarian National Museum, Budapest, Hungary.

ETYMOLOGY

This species is dedicated to an excellent Polish ecologist Dr. Marlena LEMBIĆZ.



7 - 9. *Crotonia marlenae* n. sp., holotype, leg I, antiaxial view: 7 - femur; 8 - genu and tibia; 9 - tarsus

REMARKS

This species seems to be a member of "*cophinaria*" species group (LUXTON 1982; modified by LEE 1985). From other species it differs in possessing the following combination of characters: straight rostral setae, absence of setae c_2 , setae c_3 not inserted on apophyses, length of posterior apophyses.

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