

ORIENTAL MESOSTIGMATA (ACARI)  
6. A MALESIAN MEMBER OF THE *MESOPICOS* GROUP  
(*HAEMOLAEELAPS*)<sup>1</sup>

BY R. DOMROW \*

LAELAPINAE  
PICIDAE  
NEW IN MALAYA

ABSTRACT : *Haemolaelaps palaniae* sp. nov., the first Oriental species of the *mesopicos* group, has *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Scopoli) (Piciformes : Picidae) as its host. The other members parasitise Ethiopian woodpeckers *etc.*

LAELAPINAE  
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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG : *Haemolaelaps palaniae* sp. nov., die erste orientalische Art der *mesopicos*-Gruppe, hat *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Scopoli) (Piciformes : Picidae) als Wirt. Die anderen Mitglieder schmarotzen äthiopische Spechte u.s.w.

#### INTRODUCTION

The *mesopicos* group was raised by TILL (1963) for four species she (1959) and RADFORD (1942) had earlier described from woodpeckers *etc.* in the Ethiopian Region. CORT & FORBES (1975) added a fifth species with similar zoogeographical data. It is therefore timely to describe the first Oriental member of the group, also from a woodpecker. Suprageneric taxa, morphological terms and setal signatures follow EVANS & TILL (1965, 1966), except for the tarsi of legs II-IV (EVANS, 1969). The term "holotrichous" implies the situation in typical free-living dermanyssids. Measurements are in micrometres. The host is given after GLENNISTER (1951) and MCCLURE (1963).

#### Genus *Haemolaelaps* Berlese

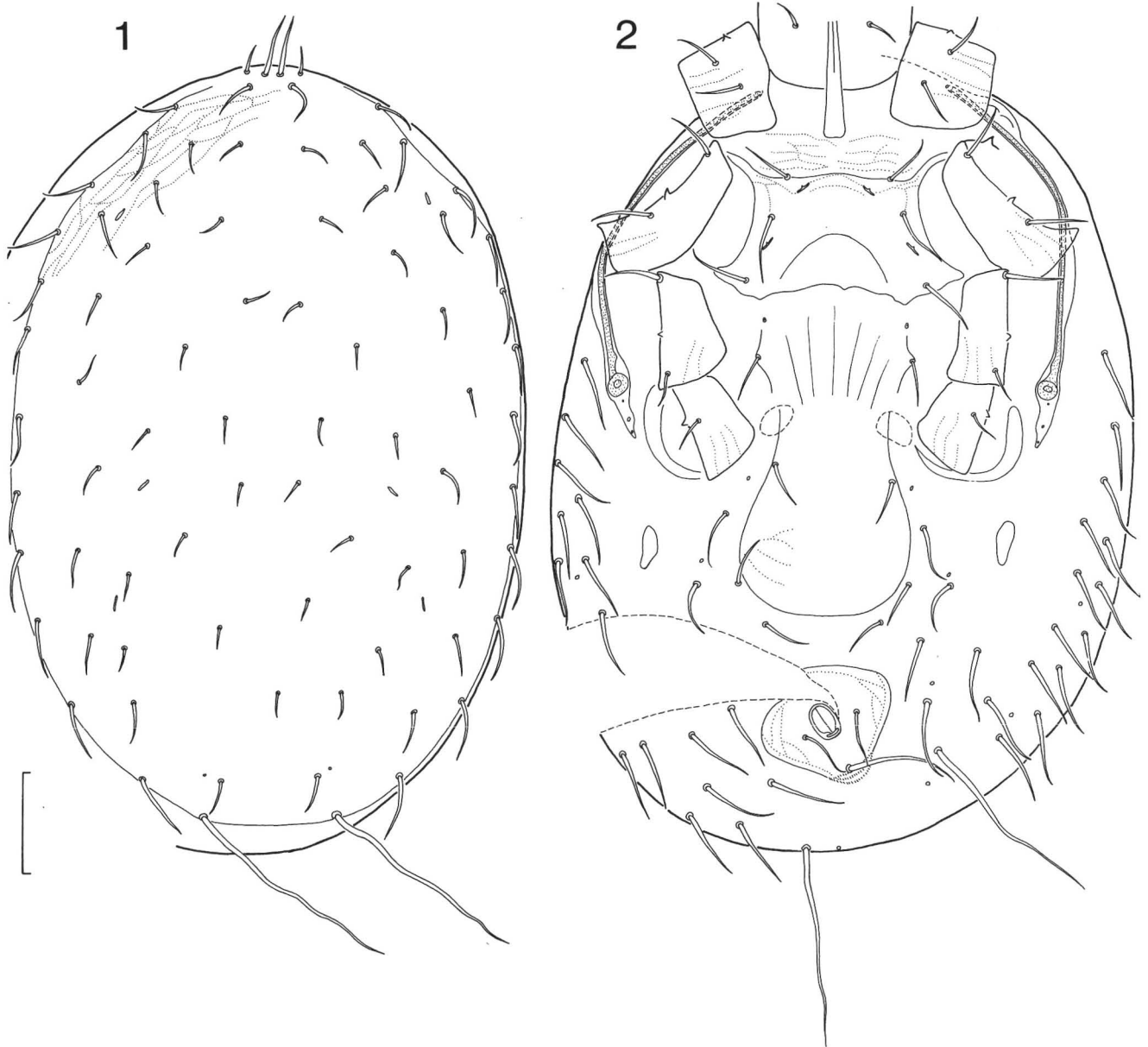
*Haemolaelaps* BERLESE, 1910, *Redia* 6 : 261 [type species *Laelaps (Haemolaelaps) marsupialis* Berlese].

#### *Haemolaelaps palaniae* sp. nov. (Figs 1-10)

■ *Female* : Epistome an extensive lobe reaching almost to level of apices of palpal genua ; margin less clear distally, but apparently deflexed, hooding oral complex as in *Liponyssoides lukoschusi* Domrow, 1979 (Dermanyssinae). Basis capituli slightly wider than long ; setae *c* moderately long, reaching deutosternum and almost to sides of basis ; deutosternum with rows of denticles, but number not detected (those distad with three or four denticles). Setae  $h_3 > h_1 > h_2$  ;  $h_3$  long, reaching well beyond sides of basis. Cornicles well formed, strongly sclerotised. Internal malae a ciliated triangle. Epipharynx elongate, longitudinally striate. Salivary stylets present. Palpal trochanter-tibia holotrichous (*i.e.* 2.5.6.14, including two dorso-distal tibial rods) ; trochanter simple on inner face ; genu with dorsobasal pore and setae  $al_{1-2}$  spatulate ; tarsus with a few slender setae, terminal cluster of rods and bifid claw. Chelicerae 245  $\mu$ m long overall, with stout shafts ; fixed digit with pore and minute seta dorsally (external pore not

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1. The previous part of this series was DOMROW (1980).



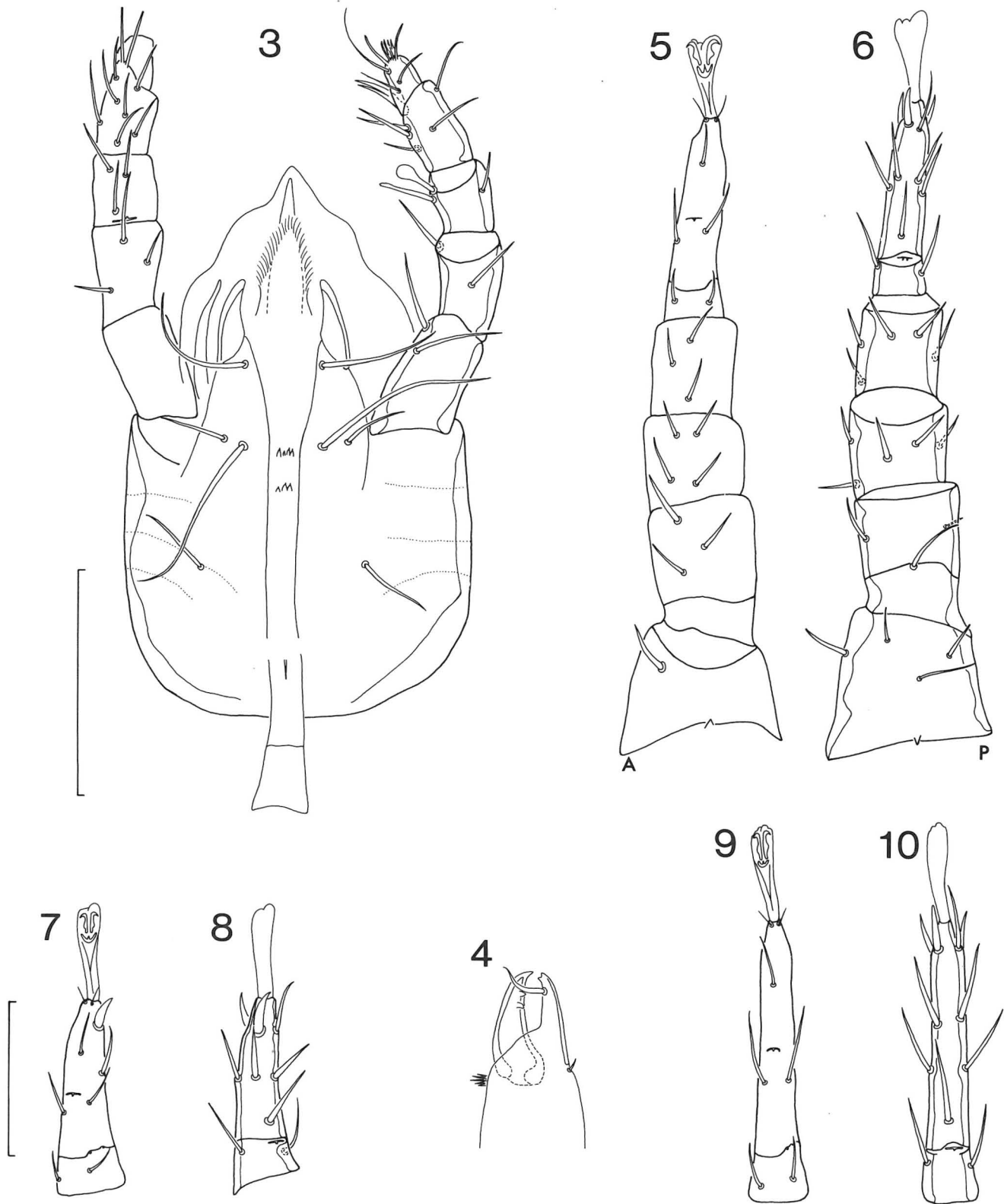
FIGS. 1-2 : *Haemolaelaps palaniae*, n. sp., ♀.  
Idiosoma in dorsal (1) and ventral (2) views (scale = 100 micrometres).

detected), almost edentate (except for tip) and bearing strong, apically tapered pilus dentilis; movable digit more strongly sclerotised, 55  $\mu\text{m}$  long, occupying 22 % of total length, with two external denticles in addition to tip, cf. *Laelaps* Koch; corona present.

Dorsal shield ovate, confined to dorsum, 740  $\mu\text{m}$  long, 495  $\mu\text{m}$  wide; surface largely obscured by body contents, but with reticulate striae clear on margin from vertex to humeri and with major

members of 22 pairs of pores typical of *Laelaps*; setae subequal marginally (except for verticals and elongate  $Z_s$ ), uniformly short distally; holotrichous (22 pairs on podonotum, 17 pairs on opisthonotum;  $J$  and  $px$  series on latter irregularly set). Dorsal cuticle in narrow marginal strip, aetose due to extent of dorsal shield.

Tritosternal base unarmed; laciniae lodged in deustosternum, but seen to be ciliated. Presteral striae present. Sternal shield 110  $\mu\text{m}$  long in



FIGS. 3-10 : *Haemolaelaps palaniae*, n. sp., ♀.

3. — Capitulum in ventral view, with true right palp shown dorsally. 4. — Cheliceral digits in dorsoexternal view. 5-6. — Leg III in dorsal, and ventral and lateral views. 7-8. — Tarsus II in posterodorsal and anteroventral views. 9-10. — Tarsus IV in dorsal, and ventral and lateral views.

midline, 165  $\mu\text{m}$  wide at level of second pair of sternal setae ( $st_2$ ); anterior margin weakly demarcated, bearing  $st_1$ ; posterior margin weakly and irregularly concave; surface with reticulate striae only across anterior strip, with two pairs of pores;  $st_{1-3}$  all on shield, of increasing length posteriorly. Metasternal shields (weak), pores and setae all present. Genital shield 145  $\mu\text{m}$  long behind level of genital setae, 165  $\mu\text{m}$  wide (maximum); only slightly, but roundly, expanded behind coxae IV, with posterior margin straight; surface with (probably essentially transverse) striae, but design interrupted by body contents; taking in genital setae, but leaving genital pores and three pairs of setae typically usurped from ventral series in *Laelaps* free in cuticle; operculum rayed, supported by apodemes between coxae IV and reaching beyond posterior margin of sternal shield. Anal shield 115  $\mu\text{m}$  long, 135  $\mu\text{m}$  wide; equilateral, but anterior margin rounded; surface with striae; anus set a little to front of centre, flanked at midlength by adanal setae rather weaker than postanal seta; cribrum present. Metapodal shields subovate. Ventral cuticle with some paired pores, and about 18 pairs of shorter setae (excluding three pairs flanking genital shield) and one pair of elongate setae terminally. Peritremes reaching beyond level of posterior margins of coxae I; peritrematic shields with two narrow extensions dorsally, probably fused vertically at level of setae  $z_1$  to dorsal shield, but free posteriorly of crescentic exopodal shields IV.

Leg setation holotrichous, with one exception: genu IV with one additional seta ( $pl_2$ , i.e. 2-5/1-2 rather than 2-5/1-1). Coxa III with  $av$  slightly strengthened, but not to extent seen in *H. steyni* and *H. dendropicos*. Femora-genua I-II with one or two dorsal setae a little lengthened, but not unduly so. Tarsi II-IV (especially II) with  $al_1$ ,  $av_1$  and  $pl_1$  spinose; IV with  $pd_3$  not filiform. Tarsus I with dorsodistal sensory islet (of the setae on this segment, six distals are longer and one middorsal outstanding, cf. *H. neoflagellata* Baker, Traub & Evans, 1962). Coxa II with small process on anterodorsal margin. Pulvilli with two claws.

■ *Male and immatures* : Unknown.

■ *Material examined* : *Holotype* ♀, Malaysia, Selangor, Rantau Panjang, ex golden-backed four-toed woodpecker, *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Scopoli) (Piciformes : Picidae), 6.IV.1962, H. E. McCURE (in U.S. National Museum, Washington, No. 3973).

■ *Notes* : *H. palaniae* is separable from all five known species in showing tibia III 8-setose (holotrichous 2-3/2-1) rather than 9-setose (presumably 2-3/2-2), but shares with *H. haydocki* (Till), *H. steyni* (Till) and *H. wilkini* (Till) the character setae  $z_3$  on dorsal shield present [absent in *H. dendropicos* (Cort & Forbes) and *H. mesopicos* (Radford)]. It may, however, be told from these three species by having the anterior margin of the sternal shield pass through the insertions of setae  $st_1$  and the genital shield a third again as wide as the anal (rather than confluent with the first pair of sternal pores and only as wide as the anal). Lastly, the new species does not show the elongate setae  $S_{2-3}$  on the dorsal shield peculiar to *H. haydocki*.

■ *Etymology* : Readers of FAUCONNIER (1965) will recall the lovely Palaniai.

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