

A NEW SPECIES OF *ATELEPALME* (ACARI : TROMBICULIDAE)  
FROM VENEZUELA<sup>1</sup>

BY

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ABSTRACT

*Atelepalme ralfi* is described as new from the Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus*, Venezuela.

RÉSUMÉ

*Atelepalme ralfi*, sp. n., est décrit du lapin, *Sylvilagus floridanus*, Venezuela.

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BRENNAN and REED (1973) proposed the genus *Atelepalme* to accommodate a single species, *Atelepalme smarma*, taken from the Cane Mouse, *Zygodontomys brevicauda*, in Venezuela. A second species, also from Venezuela, is described here from the Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus*, and the Vesper Mouse, *Calomys laucha*.

The holotype is in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History (currently housed at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii) and paratypes there and in the collection of the Bishop Museum.

***Atelepalme ralfi*, n. sp.**

*Type data* : Holotype and 6 paratypes from Venezuela, Falcon, 49 km N, 34 km W of Coro (Moruy), ex : the Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus* taken 17.VII.1968.

*Diagnosis* : Palpal setal formula B/B/BBB/7B ; palpal claw-3 pronged ; galeala B ; eyes 2/2 ; PL setae on scutum ; PW/SD = 1.45 ; sensilla flagelliform ; 3 genualae I, genuala II and III ;

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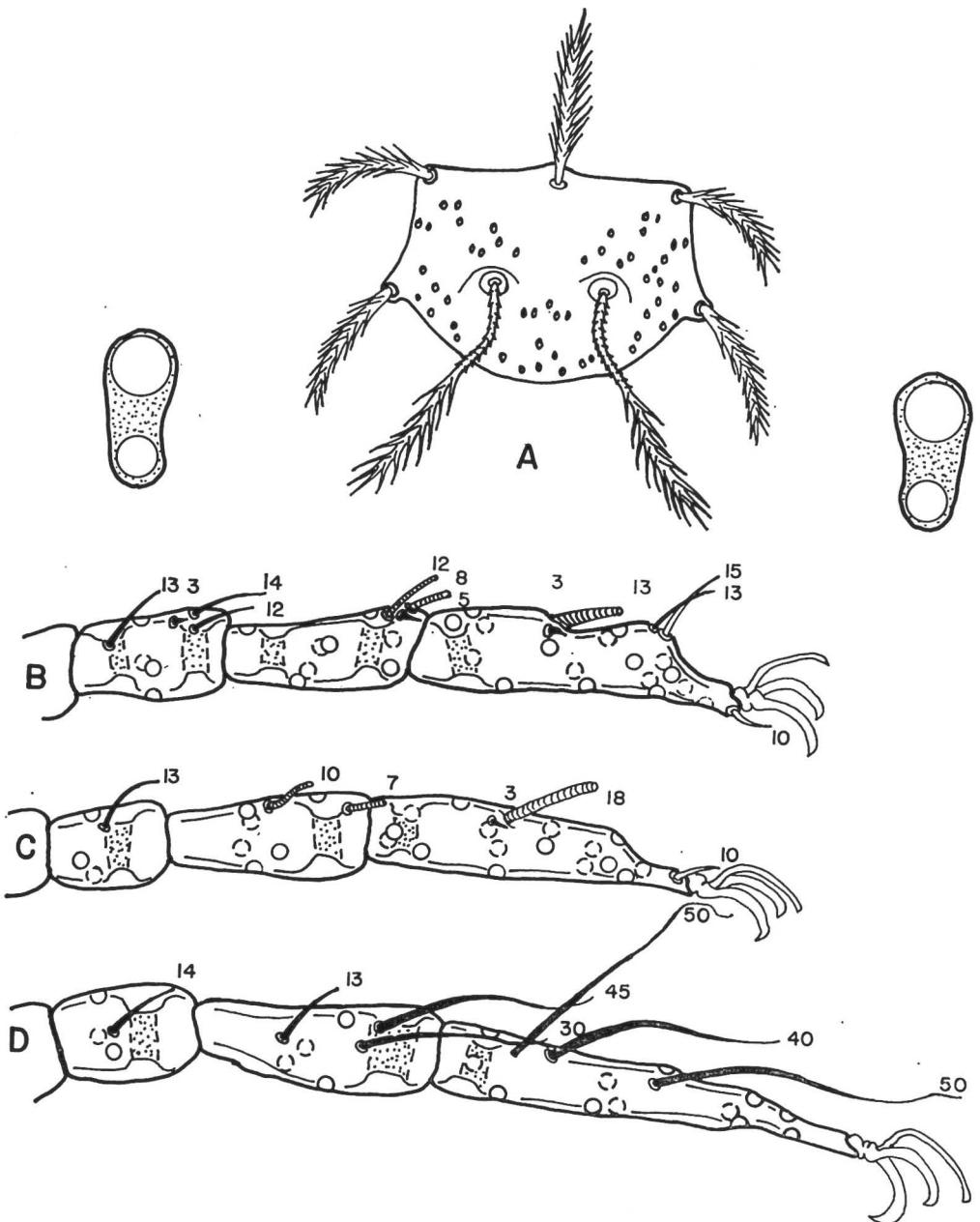


FIGURE 1 : Larva of *Atelepalme ralfi*, n. sp. A) Scutum ; B) Leg I, distal 3 segments showing specialized setae (measurements given in microns) and bases of branched setae ; C) Leg II, as above ; D) Leg III, as above.

tibiala and 2 mastitibialae III ; subterminala and parasubterminala I ; 3 mastitarsalae III ; IP = 760-790.

*Description of species* (All measurements given in microns of the holotype followed by means and extremes of paratypes in parentheses) : Larvae.

*Idiosoma* : Measuring 400 × 240 in engorged specimen. Eyes 2/2, anterior larger, on ocular plate. 2 humeral setae, measuring 32-35 ; 30 dorsal body setae, measuring 26-20, arranged 8-6-6-4-4-2 ; sternal setae 2 + 2, anterior 35, posterior 28-30 ; 24 preanal setae, 20-23 ; 22 post-anal setae, 25-28. Total body setae 82. *Gnathosoma* : Palpal setal formula B/B/BBB/7B ; palpal claw 3-pronged ; galeala B ; chela (34) with tricuspid cap ; gnathobase sparsely punctate with a pair of branched setae. *Scutum* : Sparsely punctate ; straight anterior margin ; posterior margin evenly rounded ; AM base in line with AL bases ; SB slightly anterior to PL bases ; PL setae on scutum ; PL = AM > AL ; sensilla flagelliform, with basal barbs, branched distally ; PW/SD = 1.45. Scutal measurements : AW 48 (49, 48-50) ; PW 61 (61, 59-63) ; SB 19 (19, 19-20) ; ASB 22 (22, 19-25) ; PSB 20 (20, 20-21) ; AP 21 (22, 20-24) ; AM 30 (30, 28-30) ; AL 25 (26, 23-28) ; PL 30 (31, 30-33) ; Sens. 50 (53, 50-58). *Legs* : All 7-segmented, terminating in a pair of claws and a claw-like empodium. Onychotriches absent. IP = 760-790. *Leg I* : 260-270 ; coxa with 1 branched seta (1B) ; trochanter 1B ; basifemur 1B ; telofemur 5B ; genu 4B, 3 genualae, microgenuala ; tibia 8B, 2 tibialae, microtibiala ; tarsus (60 × 16) 16B, tarsala (13), microtarsala, subterminala, parasubterminala, pretarsala. *Leg. II* : 230-240 ; coxa 1B ; trochanter 1B ; basifemur 2B ; telofemur 4B ; genu 3B, genuala ; tibia 6B, 2 tibialae ; tarsus (55 × 15) 16B, tarsala (18), microtarsala, pretarsala. *Leg. III* : 270-280 ; coxa 1B ; trochanter 1B ; basifemur 2B ; telofemur 3B ; genu 3B, genuala ; tibia 4B, tibiala, 2 mastitibialae ; tarsus (80 × 12) 12B, 3 mastitarsalae.

*Remarks* : In the original description of *Atelepalme smarma*, the number of dorsal body setae in the first posthumeral row was given as 6. Reexamination of the holotype of *A. smarma* showed 8 setae in that row. Thus the number and arrangement of dorsal body setae is identical in both *A. smarma* and *A. ralfi*. These 2 species may be separated by the PL setae being extra-scutal in *A. smarma* and on the scutum in *A. ralfi*.

*Specimens examined* (66) : Venezuela. Falcon, 49 km N, 34 km W of Coro (Moruy), 13-17. vii.1968, 1 *Calomys laucha* (5), 16 *Sylvilagus floridanus* (holotype + 60).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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Paru en Mars 1979.