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GENUS *LEDERMUELLERIOPSIS* WILLMANN FROM LATTAKIA, SYRIA
(ACARI: PROSTIGMATA) WITH A DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES

BY

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**INTRODUCTION.**

Prior to this study no work has been done concerning the stigmaeid mites of Syria. Members of the family can be recognized by having the fixid digit of the chelicerae slender, elongate, palpal tarsus with a simple and a trifid sensillum distally, empodium consisting of a rod arising from the base of the claws and branching into three Y-shaped raylets, coxae I & II well separated from coxae III & IV.

Genus *Ledermuelleriopsis* can be differentiated by having the chelicerae completely separated; the hysterosomal plate divided transversely into metapodosomal and zonal plate.

Two species were collected from Lattakia, Syria and were considered new, a key to the species of the genus in the world was established.

Genus *Ledermuelleriopsis* Willmann.

This genus is characterized by having chelicerae separated; dorsum with three plates, propodosomal, metapodosomal, and zonal; hysterosomal plates with three pairs of setae each.

**KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Ledermuelleriopsis.***

1. — Dorsal setae simple. .................................................. 2
2. — Dorsal setae clavate with spinules. .................................. 3
3. — Dorsum with punctation.................................................. L. *simplexus* n. sp.
— Dorsum with reticulation.................................................. 4
4. — Humeral setae simple. .................................................. L. *incisus* Wood
— Humeral setae clavate with spinules. .................................. L. *punctata* n. sp.

L. *plumosus* Summers
L. *spinatus* Wood
Ledermuelleriopsis punctata n. sp.
(Fig. I, A, B, C).

Distinguishing features: This species is distinctive in the shape of the dorsal punctation and can be separated from L. plumosa in having humeral setae clavate spinose. It resembles L. spinosa but differs in the shape of dorsal reticulation, and the reticulation of the humeral and the paragenital plates.

Female: Idiosoma, 343 microns long and 218 microns wide. Propodosomal plate 119 microns long, with four pairs of clavate spinose setae, a pair of eyes and with dorsal punctation; metapodosomal plate 96 microns with three pairs of clavate spinose setae and a small punctation; Zonal plate 100 microns, long, with three pairs of setae; suranal plate 19 microns long, with two pairs of clavate spinose setae.

Venter with a pair of humeral plates, each plate with a clavate spinose setae, a pair of simple setae on the ventral plate of the propodosoma, the ventral of the metapodal plate with two pairs of simple setae; genital plate with three pairs of setae, two simple and the posterior one slightly serrate, with one pair of paragenital setae and two pairs of pregenital setae, coxae of all legs with only a pair of setae. Legs measurements: (excluding coxae) leg I, 168 microns, leg II 129 microns, leg III, 116 microns, and leg IV 132 microns, the sensory seta of leg I, 32 microns, long.

Holotype: Female in the collection of the Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, collected from moss from Lattakia, Syria.

2. — Ledermuelleriopsis simplexus n. sp.
(Fig. II, D, E, F, G).

Distinguishing features: This species is distinctive in having the dorsal setae simple, very long and surpass the setae of the next row; the humeral setae very long located venterally on the humeral plate; the gnathosoma with a small punctation.

Female: Idiosoma, 330 microns long, and 240 microns wide. Propodosomal plate 92 microns long, with four pairs of simple setae, the setae surpass the setae of the next row and with a pair of eyes; metapodosomal plate with only three pairs of long setae and 97 microns long; also zonal plate with three pairs of long simple setae and 100, microns long; suranal plate present and with two pairs of simple setae and 36 microns long.

Venter: Humeral plate large triangular, displaced venterally, with a very large simple setae resembles the dorsal setae, and with a transverse striation; venter of propodosomal plate with a longitudinal striation and a pair of simple setae, venter of the metapodal plate with two pairs of simple setae, one pair of paragenital and a pair of pregenital and with a transverse striation; coxae of all legs with a pair of setae, tarsus I, 20 microns long.

Holotype: Female in the collection of the Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, found associated with moss in Lattakia, Syria.
Fig. 1: *Ledermuelleriopsis punctata* n. sp.
A. — Ventral view of body, female;
B. — Tarsus of leg I, female;
C. — Dorsal view of body, female.
Ledermuelleriopsis punctata, Ledermuelleriopsis simplexus, two new species were collected and described. A key to the species of the world was established, the species of the world were as follow: Ledermuelleriopsis incisa Wood, L. plumosus Summers, L. spinosus Wood, L. punctata n. sp., and L. simplexus n. sp.

**Summary**

Ledermuelleriopsis punctata, Ledermuelleriopsis simplexus, two new species were collected and described. A key to the species of the world was established, the species of the world were as follow: Ledermuelleriopsis incisa Wood, L. plumosus Summers, L. spinosus Wood, L. punctata n. sp., and L. simplexus n. sp.
Résumé


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