

A FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *TYDEUS* IN HIMALAYA, *TYDEUS LUNDQVISTI* NOV. SPEC. (ACARI : ACTINEDIDA : TYDEIDAE)¹

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TAXONOMY
TYDEIDAE
TYDEUS
HIMALAYA

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ABSTRACT : A new tydeid mite, *Tydeus lundqvisti*, is described and illustrated. It was found in a well-drained moss bank on silt with many moss species at Mt. Qomolangma region, Everest, Himalaya.

RÉSUMÉ : Nous décrivons et figurons une nouvelle espèce de tydéide, *Tydeus lundqvisti* n. sp. Elle a été trouvée dans un tapis de mousse bien drainé sur du limon, en même temps que de nombreuses autres espèces muscicoles, dans la région du Mont Qomolangma, Everest, Himalaya.

The majority of members of the family Tydeidae inhabit the organic strata of soil, lichens, mosses, trees and shrubs and are considered to be fungivorous and predacious mites (MARSHALL, 1970 ; HESSEIN & PERRING, 1986 ; MOMEN, 1986).

In this report, the first to deal with the family Tydeidae from Tibet, we describe a new species of the genus *Tydeus*. The new species was found in Himalaya in well drained moss bank on silt with many moss species. Mites were collected within the Mt Qomolangma (Mt Everest) Nature Reserve, situated between 28° and 20° 20' N lat., 86° 50' and 86° 55' E long.

Tydeus lundqvisti n. sp. (Figs. 1-8)

Adult female (Fig. 1). Length of body 333-345 µm ; width 230-236 µm ; dorsum striated and without any reticulated areas, striae with I-shaped

lobes (Fig. 2). On prodorsum, seta *p1* anterior to *p2*. Opisthosoma : dorsal chaetotaxy 10 (*l2* and *h1* missing). Dorsal setae simple, smooth and sharp distally ; trichobothrium filiform. Setal measurements : *p1* and *p2* subequal, 17 µm ; *p3* 19 µm ; *s* 56 µm ; *dl* 16 µm ; *d2* — *d5* and *l1* subequal, 17 µm ; *l4* and *l5* subequal 19 µm ; *h2* and *ps* subequal, 18 µm. Four pairs of aggenital and six pairs of genital setae (Fig. 8).

Epimeral formula (3-1-4-2). Leg setal patterns (formulae indicate setation from tarsus to trochanter, with solenidion in parentheses : Figs 4-7) : I 8(1) — 4 — 3 — 3 — 1 ; II 6(1) — 2 — 2 — 3 — 0 ; III 5 — 2 — 1 — 2 — 0 ; IV 5 — 2 — 1 — 1 — 0. Solenidion on tarsus I slender and longer (8 µm) than solenidion on tarsus II : seta *k* on tibia I forked (Fig. 4). Setal pattern of palpus : 6(1) — 2 — 2. Terminal eupathidium bidentate distally ; seta *d* divided and seta *ba* short and slender (Fig. 3). Moveable digit of chelicera longer (17 µm) than palptarsus (12 µm).

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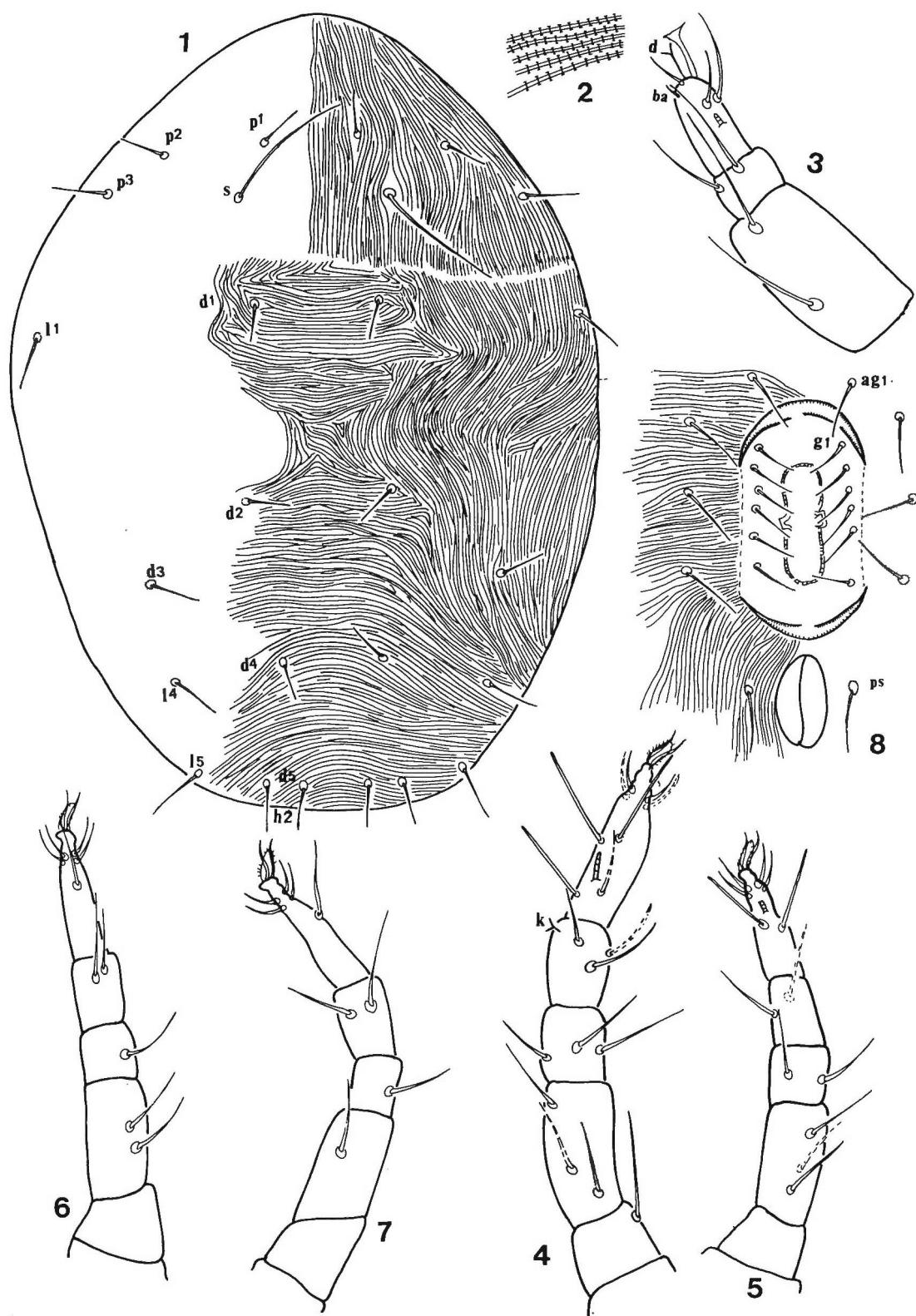


FIG. : 1-8 : *Tydeus lundqvisti* n. sp., adult female. 1. — Dorsal view. 2. — Striation pattern of dorsum. 3. — Palp. 4. — Leg I. 5. — Leg II. 6. — Leg III. 7. — Leg IV. 8. — Genital region.

Tritonymph : Length 260 — 275 µm ; width 150 — 160 µm ; other features similar to female except genital region. There are two genital pores, four pairs of genital and four pairs of aggenital setae.

Adult male : Unknown.

Type data : Holotype, female ; 15 female and 10 tritonymph paratypes : Mt. Qomolangma region, Everest, Himalaya, 5 July 1993, ex moss on soil surface.

Etymology : The species is named for Dr. L. LUNDQVIST, Department of Systematic Zoology, University of Lund, Sweden.

Notes : We observed inconsistency in the number of genital setae in five of the sixteen females — (6 *ge* on one side, 7 on the other side). Similar differences have been reported by KAZMIERSKI (1989, 1990) in *Lorryia inconstans* Kazmierski 1989 and *Eotydeus mirabilis* Kuznetzov, 1973. MOMEN and LUNDQVIST (1995) reported different numbers of dorsal setae *ps* in the species *Tydeus maga* Kuznetzov, 1973.

It should be mentioned that the genital chaetotaxy (4-4) is invariant in the case of all the tritonymphs.

Remarks : *Tydeus lundqvisti* n. sp. is distinctive in having trochanter III nude in the adult and tritonymph ; the terminal eupathidium on palp bidentate distally ; and seta *d* divided. This combination of characters separates the species from all congeners.

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