Paraphanolophus halffteri sp. n. —
one new larval species of Erythraeidae
(Acariformes) from Tabasco, Mexico

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Among the mites collected by me in Mexico in 1981—1982 was one interesting larva, very similar to Paraphanolophus metcalfei Smiley, 1968, described from Belize (former British Honduras). This second member of the genus Paraphanolophus Smiley, 1968 was found not very far from Belize, in a tube, containing many different insects. For this reason it is not possible to identify the true host of the larva. Paraphanolophus metcalfei Sm. is known to parasitise Saccharosydne saccharivora Westwood (Homoptera).

Paraphanolophus halffteri sp. n.

Material: 1 larva (Holotype), rain forest near the railway station Teapa, Tabasco, S Mexico, 23.I.1982, P. Beron leg. (deposited in the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia).

Description: body globe-shaped, with 2 eyes on each side between coxae I and II. Dorsal setae long (80—180 µm).

Scutum rounded, its upper part not well seen, W = 215 µm (all further measurements in µm); L not measurable. Two pairs of sensilae and 2 pairs of serrated setae as shown on Fig. 2.

Standard data: AW = 110; PW = 135; AL = 135; PL = 205; A – P = 34; SBA = 19; SBp = 25; ISD = 63.

Venter: 3 pairs of setae between coxae I and III (as in P. metcalfei), but the setae are of different shape. The first pair much thinner than the others. Venter of hysterosoma with about 80 setae (40 pairs), close to the setation of P. metcalfei. The shape of the ventral setae varies from the centre to the margin (Fig. 1). The median 10-12 pairs remind the sternal setae, the others become more and more like the dorsal setae.

Legs: fcx = 1.1.1 (the longest seta is on cx I)
    ftr = 1.1.1 (fcx and ftr the same as with P. metcalfei)

One very striking feature is the presence of coarse (serrate) setae. These setae (indicated with c) are interspersed with “normal” barbed setae (B).

Leg I (Fig. 3), leg II (Fig. 4), leg III (Fig. 5)

On bf I, II and III there are 5 setae, as with P. metcalfei. With the new species tf I has 3c and 2B, on tf II and III we find 5c.
Figs 1—5 Paraphanolophus halsfeti sp. n. (1) Ventral idiosoma; (2) Prodorsal sclerite and dorsal side of gnathosoma; (3) Leg I; (4) Leg II; (5) Leg III.
On genu I there are 8 setae (3c and 5B), against 9 with *P. metcalfi*. Two spines are present with both species. The gI of the new species has 1 big submedian spine and one small (v) distally.

On genu II there are 8 setae (3c and 5B), against 9 with *P. metcalfi*.

On genu III there are 8 setae, as with *P. metcalfi*.

On tb I there are 14 setae (1c and 13B), as with *P. metcalfi*. Our species has 2 spines and 1 v, *P. metcalfi* — only 2 spines.

On tb II there are 15 setae (5c and 10B), against 10 setae with *P. metcalfi*. Both species have got also 1 spine.

On tb III there are 15 setae (8c + 7B), against 13 with *P. metcalfi*. Both species have got also 1 spine. According to the figure of Smiley however on tb of *P. metcalfi* there are 15 setae and not 13 (6c + 9B).

**Discussion:** we follow here the opinion of WELBOURNE and YOUNG (1987) that “*Paraphanolophus* Smiley, originally placed in the Smarididae (SMILEY, 1968), should be transferred to the Erythraeidae”. The typical coarse serrated setae on the legs are found in several adult American Erythraeid mites (like “*Rhyncholophus*” *erinaceus* Stoll, 1886 from Guatemala, not very far from the place where the new species has been found).

**References**


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Paraphanolophus halffteri sp. n. — еден нов ларваден вид акар от сем. Erythraeidae (Acariformes) от Табаско, Мексико

Петър БЕРОН

(Резюме)

По една ларва от Teana, щата Табаско, Мексико, се описва новият вид Paraphanolophus halffteri sp. n., паразит по неопределеено насекомо. Това е вторият познат вид от рог Paraphanolophus Smiley. Подкрепя се мнението на Welbourn and Young (1987), че този рог трябва да бъде прехвърлен от Smarididae в Erythraeidae.