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SPECIES OF THE GENUS AMBLYSEIUS BERLESE, 1914, FROM TAMATAVE, EAST MADAGASCAR
(ACARINA: PHYTOSEIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Seven new species of the genus Amblyseius are described: Amblyseius (Proprioseiopsis) parasundi, A. (A.) tamatavensis, A. (A.) passiflorae, A. (A.) reptans, A. (A.) ivoloinae, A. (A.) ovoloides, A. (A.) aequidens. All species were collected on fruit trees except A. passiflorae. A. parasundi is a thelytokous species. A. (A.) bibens Blommers, 1973, and A. (A.) brevipes Blommers, 1973, are recorded from the Tamatave region.

INTRODUCTION

Twice in the course of 1972 (February and July), I had the opportunity to visit the experimental station of the I.F.A.C. (Institut Français de Recherches Fruitières Outre Mer) at Ivoloina, 10 km north of Tamatave, and to study the fruit tree spider mites and their phytoseiid ennemies.

Nine species of the genus Amblyseius were found, seven of which undescribed; the recal ning two species were described recently from the southwestern part of the island (Blommers, 1973).

I have made an attempt to compare my new spe-

cies with the many hundreds of *Amblyseius*-species from all over the world, with emphasis on those from the Old World tropics. The nomenclature of the dorsal setae is as illustrated in fig. 6 (cf. Blommers, 1973).

I have followed the subgeneric division of the genus *Amblyseius* used by Van der Merwe (1968) in his recent monograph on the South African Phytoseiidae.

Holotypes and paratypes will be deposited in the Institute of Taxonomic Zoology (Zoölogisch Museum) of the University of Amsterdam.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Amblyseius (Proprioseiopsis) parasundi sp. n. (figs. 1-5)

Material studied.— Holotype (author's serial no. A20-8) and 10 paratypes (A20-series) collected on breadfruit leaves (Artocarpus incisa; fam. Moraceae), I.F.A.C.-station, Ivoloina near Tamatave, 25-VII-1972 (L. Blommers).

Differential diagnosis.— The subgenus Proprioseiopsis Muma, 1961, is characterized by a number of 15 or 16 setae on the female dorsal shield, at the same time both setae Z1 and J2, or only one of these, absent. A. parasundi and the two African species A. sundi Pritchard & Baker, 1962, and A. papayana Van der Merwe, 1965, are the only three species in this subgenus lacking seta Z1, and possessing J2. A. parasundi is most closely related to A. sundi, and differs in the shorter length of seta Z5 and the macrosetae on leg IV. The occurrence in central Madagascar of a form that I identified as the genuine A. sundi, also justifies my opinion that A. parasundi is a good new species.

Description.— Female: Dorsal shield weakly sclerotized and smooth, 370µ long and 290µ wide; with 18 pairs of pores; 16 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 40, j3 52, j4 3, j5 3, j6 3, J2 5, J5 4, z4 6, z5 3, Z4 170, Z5 430, s2 10, s4 165, S2 7, S4 9, S5 7. Setae r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane, 22µ and 10µ long, respectively. Peritremes reaching in front of setae j1.

Sternal and genital shield as usual. Ventrianal shield 125µ long and 80µ wide, laterally constricted, with three pairs of pre-anal setae. Surrounding membrane with five pairs of pores and four pairs of setae; VL1 90µ long.

Length tarsus IV (including basitarsus) 180 μ . Six macrosetae on leg IV: two on genu 190 μ and 55 μ , two on tibia 140 μ and 50 μ , two on basitarsus 85 μ and 30 μ long. Length of remaining macrosetae: genu III 70 μ , tibia III 55 μ , tarsus III 40 μ , genu II 50 μ and genu I 70 μ .

Fixed digit of chelicera with two subapical teeth and eleven in a row. Movable digit with three teeth. Length of both digits 38μ .

Major duct of spermatheca thin walled, 2μ wide and at least 10μ long. Atrium thick walled, 10μ long. Cervix slender and tube-like, minimum width 3μ , length 35μ (see fig. 3).

Remarks.— A. parasundi is a thelytokous species. Both in the field and in several mass-rearings in the laboratory males were never found, while the progeny of females isolated individually since the egg-stage consisted entirely of reproducing females; the third generation being females, too. Thelytoky was observed in only two other species of Phytoseiidae: in A. guatemalensis (Chant, 1959) [= A. elongatus (Garman, 1958), nec (Oudemans, 1930)] by Kennett (1958) and in A. deleoni Muma & Denmark, 1970 [= A. largoensis Muma, 1961, nec (Muma, 1955)] by Van der Merwe (1968).

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) tamatavensis sp. n. (figs. 6-12)

Material studied.- Holotype ? (author's serial no. A32-2) and 2 ? paratypes (A32-1&3) from combava leaves (Citrus (Papeda) hystrix; fam. Rutaceae), I.F.A.C.-station Ivoloina, near Tamatave, 1-VIII-1972 (L. Blommers). Other paratypes: 4 ? and 4 d (A10. 2k 1 to 8) from a mass-rearing, started with specimens from lemon leaves (Citrus limon), S.I.C.O.E.-plantation, Ivoloina, Tamatave, on 8-VII-1972.

Differential diagnosis.— A. tamatavensis resembles A. anomalus Van der Merwe, 1968. It differs from this species in the greater length of setae s4, Z4 and Z5 and of the three macrosetae on leg IV, and in the shape of the spermatheca. A. tamatavensis is also related to A. obtusus Koch, 1839, sensu Karg, 1960, from which it differs in the smaller size of the same setae.

Description.— Female: Dorsal shield smooth, 340µ long and 250µ wide; with 20 pairs of pores; 17 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 32, j3 54, j4 4, j5 3, j6 3, J2 5, J5 6, z4 6, z5 3, Z1 5, Z4 115, Z5 250, s2 6, s4 88, S2 5, S4 6, S5 6. r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane, respectively 15µ and 5µ long. Peritremes reach beyond setae j1.

Sternal and genital shields as usual. Ventrianal shield 120 μ long and 100 μ wide, not imbricate, smooth; with three pairs of pre-anal setae. Eight pairs of pores in surrounding membrane; four pairs of setae; VL1 84 μ long.

Length tarsus IV 120 μ . Leg IV with four macrosetae: on genu 120 μ and 32 μ , on tibia 75 μ and on basitarsus 73 μ long. Macrosetae present on other legs: genu III 61 μ , tibia III 41 μ , basitarsus III 22 μ , genu II 39 μ , genu I 41 μ .

Fixed digit of chelicera with two subapical teeth and 12 in an irregular row. Movable digit with three teeth. Length of both digits about 35µ.

Major duct of spermatheca well defined, 30μ long and 4μ wide. Atrium small. Cervix tube-like, 16μ long, hardly widening towards the end, about 4μ wide.

Male: r2 and R1 on dorsal shield. Length of dorsal setae (in microns): j1 26, j3 54, j4 4, j5 3, j6 4, J2 5, J5 5, z4 5, z5 3, Z1 5, Z4 85, Z5 170, s2 4, s4 60, S2 5, S4 5, S5 5, r2 12, R1 5.

Ventri-anal shield 110 μ long, imbricate anteriorly, with three pairs of pre-anals. Surrounding membrane with three pairs of pores and setae VL1 40 μ long.

Macrosetae on leg IV: on genu 66μ , on tibia 45μ and on basitarsus 55μ long.

Fixed digit of chelicera with one subapical tooth and seven teeth in a row. Movable digit with one small tooth, and L-shaped spermatophoral process. Major portion of the latter 17μ long; branch 20μ , parallel-sided, with somewhat bulged end.

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) passiflorae sp. n. (figs. 13-20)

Material studied.— Holotype ? (author's serial no. A7-15) and 3 ? paratypes (A7-series) collected on *Passiflora foetida* (fam. Passifloraceae), I.F.A.C.-station, Ivoloina near Tamatave, 5-VII-1972 (L. Blommers). Two paratypes (? and d; A19-5 and A19-3) from the same species of plant and the same locality, 24-VII-1972 (L. Blommers).

Differential diagnosis.— A. passiflorae resembles A. largoensis (Muma, 1955) (= A. neolargoensis Van der Merwe, 1965), A. deleoni Muma & Denmark, 1970 (= A. largoensis Muma, 1961, sensu Van der Merwe, 1968), and A. impactus Chaudri, 1968. All these species have about ten teeth on the fixed digit of the chelicera of the female; setaes 4, Z4 and Z5 whip-like; the cervix of the spermatheca more or less elongated and tube-like; and the ventri-anal shield constricted in the middle. A. passiflorae resembles African A. deleoni most of all. From this species it differs in the more compact shape of the spermathecal major duct and cervix and in the greater difference in length between setae j1 and j3.

Description. - Female: Dorsal shield smooth, 360µ long and 240µ wide; with 18 pairs of pores;

17 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 34, j3 50, j4 7, j5 8, j6 10, J2 10, J5 8, z4 10, z5 6, Z1 10, Z4 94, Z5 260, s2 15, s4 85, S2 12, S4 12, S5 10, r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane and both 12µ long. Peritremes ending in front of setae j1.

Sternal and genital shield as usual. Ventrianal shield 105 μ long and 70 μ wide, constricted on level of pre-anal pores. Three pairs of pre-anals. Eight pairs of pores in surrounding membrane; four pairs of setae, VL1 60 μ long.

Length of tarsus IV 145μ. Macrosetae present on legs: genu IV 115μ and 22μ, tibia IV 90μ, basitarsus IV 70μ, genu III 45μ, tibia III 42μ, basitarsus III 30μ, genu II 36μ, genu I 42μ.

Fixed digit of chelicera 33µ long; with two subapical teeth, and nine teeth in a row; movable digit (33µ) with three teeth.

Major duct of spermatheca clearly defined, about 20 μ long and 4 μ wide. Atrium bulbous. Cervix somewhat swollen, 9 μ wide and 16 μ long. Male: Length dorsal shield 260 μ , width 180 μ . r2 and R1 on dorsal shield. Length of setae (in microns): j1 25, j3 43, j4 6, j5 5, j6 7, J2 9, J5 7, z4 8, z5 5, Z1 9, Z4 64, Z5 195, s2 11, s4 67, S2 10, S4 10, S5 8, r2 8, R1 8.

Ventri-anal shield slightly imbricate, fused with peritremal shields, 100µ long.

Macrosetae on legs: genu IV 62μ , tibia IV 50μ , basitarsus IV 50μ , genu III 45μ , tibia III 42μ , basitarsus III 30μ .

Fixed digit of chelicera with one subapical tooth, and nine teeth in a row. Movable digit with one tooth. Spermatophoral process L-shaped; major portion 15 μ long; branch 14 μ and pointedly ending. Length fixed digit 26 μ , movable digit 24 μ

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) reptans sp. n. (figs. 21-27)

Material studied.— Holotype \P (author's serial no. A26-15) and 7 paratypes (4 \P and 3 Φ : A26-series) from guava leaves (*Psidium guayava*; fam. Myrtaceae), Tamatave, 28-VII-1972 (L. Blommers).

Differential diagnosis.— A. reptans resembles closely A. dimidiatus De Leon, 1962, from Florida, U.S.A., but differs in the greater length of dorsal setae Z4 and Z5 and in the shorter length of VL1.

Description. - Female: Dorsal shield laterally

reticulate, 290µ long and 190µ wide; with 19µ pairs of pores; 17 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 21, j3 15, j4 8, j5 7, j6 10, J2 10, J5 7, z4 16, z5 18, Z1 10, Z4 48, Z5 70, s2 16, s4 25, S2 18, S4 15, S5 14. Z4 and Z5 serrate. r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane, both 15µ long. Peritremes reach in front of setae j1.

Ventral and genital shield as usual. Ventrianal shield pentagonal, 98μ long and 78μ wide, with three pairs of pre-anals. Eight pairs of pores in surrounding membrane; four pairs of setae, VL1 24μ long.

Macrosetae on leg IV: on genu 27μ , on tibia 20μ , and on basitarsus 50μ long. Macrosetae on other legs hardly longer than normal setae, but more dagger-like: on genu, tibia, tarsus of leg III, and on genu II and I. In some specimens some macrosetae with knobbed end.

Fixed digit of chelicera with two subapical teeth and six in a row. Movable digit with three teeth. Both digits 26μ long.

Spermatheca with major duct 2μ wide and 16μ long. Atrium short. Cervix long and slender, parallel-sided for most of its length, 45μ long and 2μ wide.

Male: Dorsal shield as in female; 250μ long and 170μ wide. r2 and R1 on dorsal shield. Length (in microns): j1 16, j3 20, j4 7, j5 8, j6 8, J2 8, J5 3, z4 16, z5 6, Z1 9, Z4 20, Z5 35, s2 16, s4 20, S2 20, S4 15, S5 13, r2 14, R1 13. Z4 and Z5 serrate.

Ventri-anal shield 105μ long, with three pairs of pre-anals and five pairs of pores; fused with peritremal shields. Surrounding membrane with two pairs of pores and VL1 17μ long.

Macrosetae on leg IV: on genu 19μ , on tibia 15μ and on basitarsus 45μ long.

Fixed digit of chelicera with one subapical tooth and seven teeth in a row. Movable digit with one tooth; spermatophoral process L-shaped; major portion 15μ , branch 9μ long.

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) ivoloinae sp. n. (figs. 28-34)

Material studied.— Holotype ? (author's serial no. A28-8) and 7 paratypes (5 ? and 2 d: A28-series) from lemon leaves (*Citrus limon*: fam. Rutaceae), S.I.C.O.E.-plantation, Ivoloina near Tamatave, 29-VII-1972 (L. Blommers).

Differential diagnosis.— A. ivoloinae resembles A. culmulus Van der Merwe, 1968, and A. shi Pritchard & Baker, 1962. However, the shorter dorsal setae and macrosetae on leg IV distinguish it from the former, and the shape of the spermatheca from the latter.

Description.— Female: Dorsal shield reticulate laterally, imbricate in the centre, 320µ long and 230µ wide; with 20 pairs of pores; 17 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 15, j3 18, j4 10, j5 10, j6 10, J2 12, J5 8, z4 10, z5 10, Z1 10, Z4 26, Z5 60, s2 14, s4 18, S2 12, S4 10, S5 10. Z4 and Z5 serrate. Peritremes reach in front of j1. r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane, both 12µ long.

Sternal and genital shield as usual. Ventrianal shield pentagonal, laterally faintly constricted, 105µ long and 80µ wide, with three pairs of pre-anals. Surrounding membrane with eight pairs of pores and four pairs of setae; VL1 35µ long.

Macrosetae on leg IV: on genu 40μ , on tibia 32 μ and on basitarsus 50 μ long.In some specimens these macrosetae knobbed. Macrosetae on other legs short and dagger-like, the longest on genu III (28 μ).

Fixed digit of chelicera 25μ long, with two subapical teeth and six in a row. Movable digit 27μ long, with three teeth.

Spermatheca with major duct long and slender at least 25 μ long, and 1 μ wide. Atrium small, cervix practically nil.

Male: Dorsal shield as in female, 270µ long and 190µ wide; r2 and R1 on it. Length of setae (in microns): j1 15, j3 25, j4 9, j5 8, j6 9, J2 10, J5 7, z4 9, z5 8, Z1 10, Z4 25, Z5 45, s2 10, s4 15, S2 10, S4 9, S5 8, r2 11, R1 10. Z4 and Z5 serrate.

Ventri-anal shield not fused with peritremal shields, 95µ long, with five pairs of pores and three pairs of pre-anals. Surrounding membrane with two pairs of pores and VL1 25µ long.

Macrosetae on leg IV: on genu 25μ , on tibia 23μ and on basitarsus 38μ long.

Fixed digit of chelicera with one subapical tooth and six teeth in a row. Movable digit with one tooth; spermatophoral process L-shaped; major portion 19µ long, branch 9µ.

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) ovaloides sp. n. (figs. 35-41)

Material studied.- Holotype ? (author's serial no. A15-2) from combava leaves (Citrus (Papeda) hystrix; fam. Rutaceae), I.F.A.C.-station, Ivoloina near Tamatave, 18-VII-1972 (L. Blommers). Four ? paratypes (A2-series) from avocado leaves (Persea americana; fam. Lauraceae) at the same locality as the holotype, 8-II-1972 (L. Blommers).

Differential diagnosis.— Comparison of our specimens with the original description of A. ovalis (Evans, 1953) from Malaya, and with the description of japanese A. ovalis by Ehara (1967) reveals only slight differences. In table I some comparative measurements are given (in microns). Other noteworthy differences are the smooth dorsal shield described by Evans, in contrast to the reticulate shield observed by Ehara and myself. A median lobe of the sternal shield in the female is present only in A. ovaloides. Because distinguishing marks are rather scarce in the ovalisgroup (cf. Blommers, 1973), I prefer to consider A. ovaloides a good species.

Within the Malagasy fauna A. ovaloides comes close to A. brevipes Blommers, 1973, and A. rotundus Blommers, 1973, but the shape of the spermatheca and the ventri-anal shield in the female of the latter two species is quite different.

Description.— Female: Dorsal shield reticulate anterolaterally, 335 μ long and 200 μ wide; with at least 16 pairs of pores; 17 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 30, j3 8, j4 5, j5 5, j6 6, J2 7, J5 5, z4 8, z5 7, Z1 8, Z4 8, Z5 44, s2 7, s4 12, S2 8, S4 8, S5 7. r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane, both 8 μ long. Peritremes not reaching level with j3.

Sternal shield with large median lobe. Genital

shield as usual. Ventri-anal shield constricted anteriorly, 100µ long and 72µ wide; setal arrangement as in A. ovalis (see fig. 37). Surrounding membrane with at least four pairs of pores, and four pairs of setae; VL1 22µ long.

Length of tarsus IV 125 μ , including basitarsus of 32 μ . Length of macrosetae: on genu IV 40 μ , on tibia IV 32 μ and on basitarsus IV 58 μ , on genu III 25 μ and on tibia III 20 μ .

Fixed digit of chelicera with one blunt tooth, 28μ long. Movable digit with one small tooth, 26μ long.

Major duct of spermatheca ill-defined, 9μ long and 1μ wide. Atrium small. Cervix tubular, 11μ long, 1μ wide, suddenly widened terminally. Male: Unknown to the author.

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) aequidens sp. n. (figs. 42-47)

Material studied.— Holotype ? (author's serial no. A10-11) from lemon leaves (*Citrus limon*), S.I.C.O.E.-plantation, Ivoloina near Tamatave, 8-VII-1972 (L. Blommers). Three paratypes (A44-1? and A44-2 d) from the same plants in the same locality, 5-VIII-1972 (L. Blommers).

Differential diagnosis.— A combination of features shown by A. aequidens makes it quite unique among species of the genus Amblyseius. I do not know of any other species having large multidentate chelicera, a heavily sclerotized dorsal shield, subequal dorsal setae, and a pentagonal ventri-anal shield.

Description. - Female: Dorsal shield strongly sclerotized, 450µ long and 350µ wide, imbricate in the centre; with at least 18 paires of pores; 17 pairs of setae, length in microns: j1 25, j3 20, j4 11, j5 12, j6 14, J2 16, J5 9, z4 23, z5

Table I

	A. ovalis Evans (Malaya)	A. ovalis Ehara (Japan)	A. ovaloides sp. n. (Madagascar)
Dorsal setae j1	33	31	27-30:
Dorsal setae Z5	55	50	45-48
Dorsal setae si	<u>+</u> 20	15	9–12
Remaining dorsal setae	9-11	7-14	5-8
Macrosetae leg IV: genu	39	37	36-40
tibia	37	32	29-34
basitarsus	55	53	52-57

14, Z1 20, Z4 23, Z5 35, s2 14, s4 31, S2 26, S4 28, S5 29. All dorsal setae hair-like. r2 and R1 on interscutal membrane, both 30µ long. Peritremes reach nearly in front of setae j1.

Sternal shield posteriorly with median lobe. Genital shield wider (108μ) than ventri-anal shield (85μ). Ventri-anal shield weakly sclerotized (in comparison to other shields), in our specimens difficult to examine; probably pentagonal, with three pairs of pre-anal setae.

Macrosetae on leg IV hardly distinguishable from other setae: on genu 24μ , on tibia 20μ and on basitarsus 42μ long.

Chelicera large; fixed digit 42μ long, with one subapical tooth and 2 + 13 teeth in a row. Movable digit 45μ long, with 5 (or 6) teeth.

Major duct of spermatheca in our specimens ill-defined. Bifid atrium 16 μ long. Cervix slender, tube-like, 42 μ long and 3 μ wide, widening towards the end.

Male: r2 and R1 on dorsal shield. Length of setae (in microns): j1 20, j3 20, j4 8, j5 9, j6 10, J2 11, J5 5, z4 17, z5 10, Z1 14, Z4 20, Z5 28, s2 11, s4 24, S2 17, S4 20, S5 20, r2 and R1 20.

Ventri-anal shield badly preserved in our specimen. VL1 14μ .

Macrosetae on leg IV: on genu 20μ , on tibia 18μ and on basitarsus 36μ long.

Fixed digit of chelicera 25µ long, with one subapical tooth, and seven teeth in a row. Movable digit with one tooth; spermatophoral process 23µ long, rather swollen terminally, 6µ wide, with drop-like branch of about 3µ diameter.

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) brevipes Blommers, 1973

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) brevipes Blommers, 1973: 112, figs. 26-28.

This species was originally described from Carica papaya in Tuléar and Diospyros sp. in Manombo, N. of Tuléar.

Material studied.- 13 9 and 1 6 (A4-series) from Carica papaya, I.F.A.C.-station, Ivoloina near Tamatave, 8-II-1972 (L. Blommers).

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Amblyseius (Amblyseius) bibens Blommers, 1973

Amblyseius (Amblyseius) bibens Blommers, 1973: 111, figs. 12-18.

This species was previously recorded from various annuals in the region of Tuléar.

Material studied. - 10 9 and 1 d (A6-series) from
Phaseolus (lunatus?), Ivoloina, Tamatave, 11-II1972 (L. Blommers).

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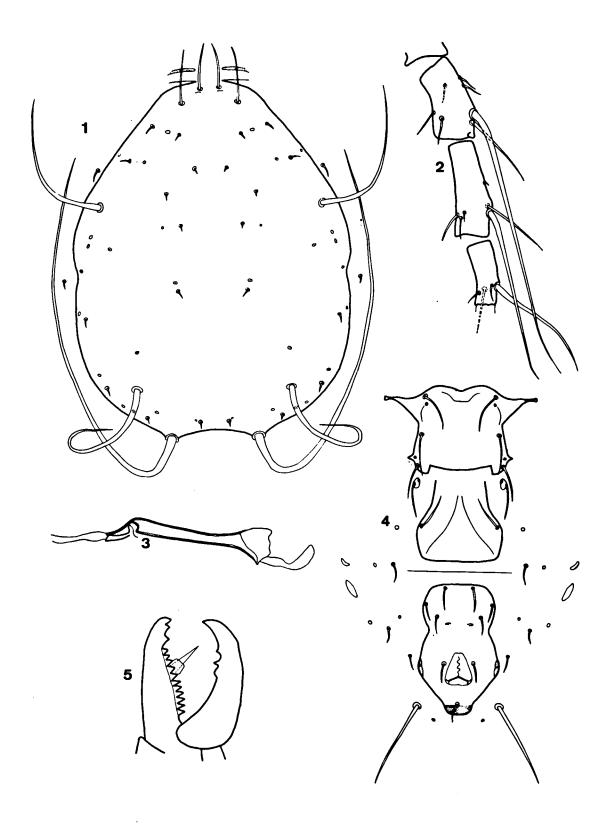
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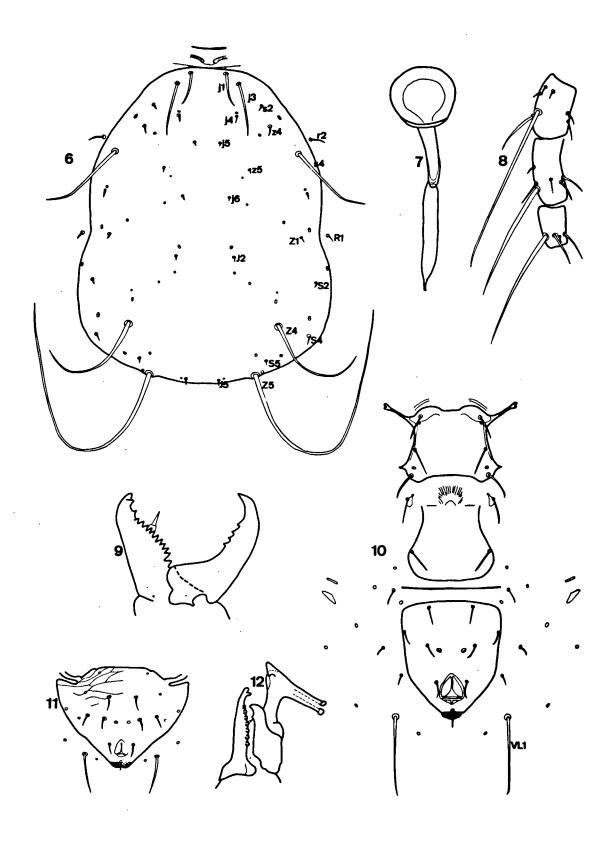
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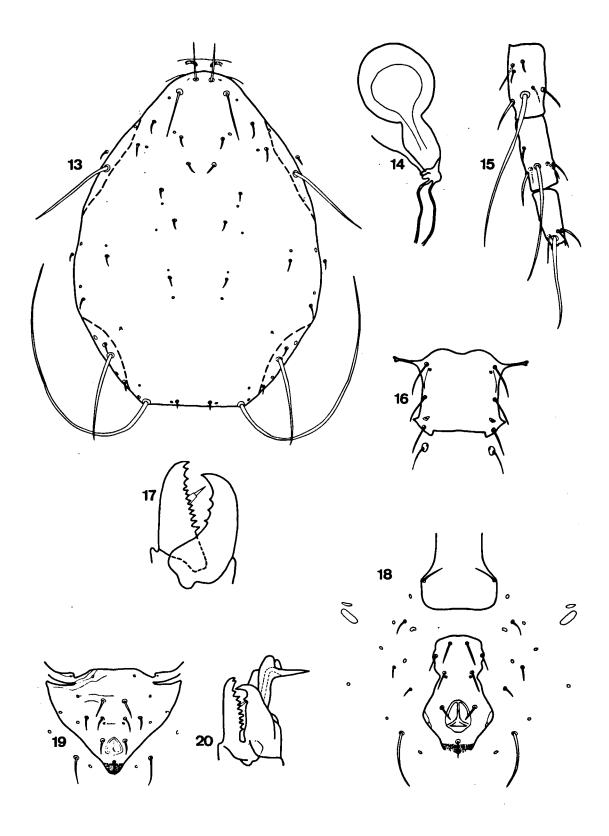
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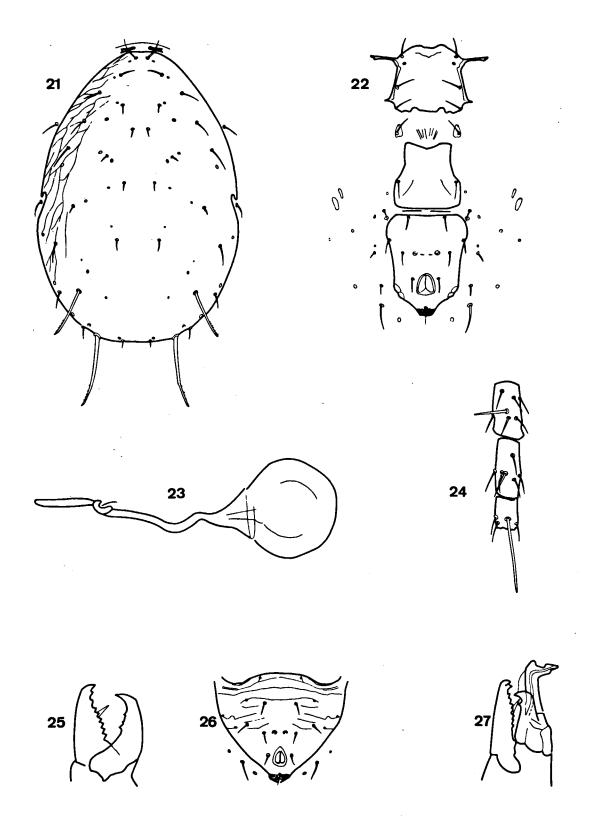
Figs. 1-5. Amblyseius (Proprioseiopsis) parasundi sp. n. 9: 1, dorsum; 2, leg IV; 3, spermatheca; 4, venter; 5, chelicera.



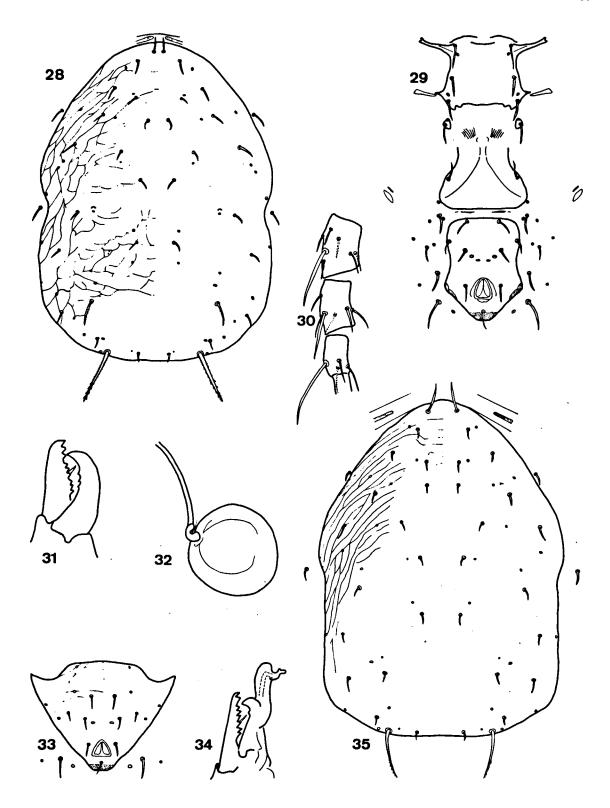
Figs. 6-12. Amblyseius (Amblyseius) tamatavensis sp. n. 6-10 9: 6, dorsum; 7, spermatheca; 8, leg
IV; 9, chelicera; 10, venter; 11-12 d: 11, ventri-anal shield; 12, chelicera.



Figs. 13-20. Amblyseius (Amblyseius) passiflorae sp. n. 13-18 9: 13, dorsum; 14, spermatheca; 15, leg IV; 16, sternal shield; 17, chelicera; 18, genital and ventri-anal shields; 19-20, 6: 19, ventri-anal shield; 20, chelicera.

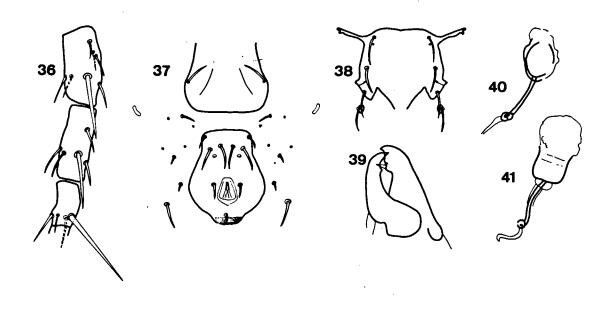


Figs. 21-27. Amblyseius (Amblyseius) reptans sp. n. 21-25 \(\frac{9}{2}\): 21, dorsum; 22, venter; 23, spermatheca; 24, leg IV; 25, chelicera; 26-27 \(\delta\): 26, ventri-anal shield; 27, chelicera.

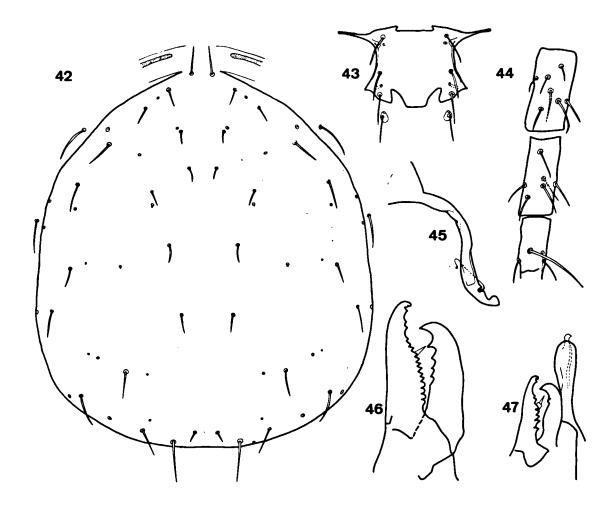


Figs. 28-34. Amblyseius (Amblyseius)ivoloinae sp. n. 28-32 9: 28, dorsum; 29, venter; 30, leg IV; 31, chelicera; 32, spermatheca; 33-34 d: 33, ventri-anal shield; 34, chelicera.

Fig. 35. Amblyseius (Amblyseius) ovaloides sp. n. 9: dorsum.



Figs. 36-41. Amblyseius (Amblyseius) ovaloides sp. n. 9: 36, leg IV; 37, genital and ventri-anal shields; 38, sternal shield; 39, chelicera; 40/41, spermatheca.



Figs. 42-47. Amblyseius (Amblyseius) aequidens sp. n. 42-46 9: 42, dorsum; 43, sternal shield; 44, leg IV; 45, spermatheca; 46, chelicera; 47 d: chelicera.