

## SHORT NOTES

**Laelaptidae Mites (Parasitiformes, Mesostigmata)  
of East African Millipedes (Diplopoda)**INETA SALMANE<sup>1</sup>, DMITRY TELNOV<sup>2</sup>

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Two Gamasina mite species *Julolaelaps moseri* HUNTER et ROSARIO, 1986 and *Julolaelaps kilifiensis* KONTSCHÁN, 2005 were found associated with *Archispirostreptus gigas* (PETERS, 1855) (Diplopoda). *J. moseri* is known from the “giant millipedes” of Trinidad (Hunter, Rosario 1986) and *J. kilifiensis* from the *Archispirostreptus gigas* of Kenya (Kontschán 2005).

These millipedes live in East Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique) and does belong to the largest Diplopoda species. Total length of adults is about 300 mm. They are often imported to Europe and available in pet shops together with their mite fauna.

*Julolaelaps* BERLESE, 1916 mites are known to be common associates of the millipedes (Uppstrom, Klompen 2005), still little is known on relationships between millipedes and mites. The feeding habitats (parasitism or paraphagy) of *Julolaelaps* are not confirmed. These mites have spine like setae on their legs, what may function for attachment to the host (Hunter, Rosario 1988).

Investigated alive specimens of *Archispirostreptus gigas* were received from the private collection (culture) of second author in Rīga. The specimens were obtained in the pet shop, where these millipedes were delivered from the native (unknown) locality. Mites were collected from the several millipedes, each of which carried about 30 mite specimens. Of them two females and one male of *J. moseri* and one female of *J. kilifiensis* were caught and identified. Mites are deposited at the Institute of Biology, University of Latvia (Salaspils).

**References**

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