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## *Eutrombicula (E.) poppi*, a new ~~Chigger~~<sup>MUS. COMP. ZOOL.</sup> from a Sea Snake<sup>1)</sup>

(ACARINA, TROMBICULIDAE) <sup>MAR 24 1972</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

A slide labelled *Trombicula wichmanni* in the collection of the museum of Munich has been recognized as a new species of *Eutrombicula*. It was collected on a sea snake of the Oriental region and is characterized by diploid genualae on the legs, showing the formula 6.2.2 instead of the usual 3.1.1. The new species is called *Eutrombicula (Eutrombicula) poppi*.

At the beginning of 1970 Dr. Egon POPP, of the Zoologische Staatssammlung, Abt. Wirbellose Tiere, München, sent me a slide numbered V. 2140 and labelled *Trombicula wichmanni* Oudemans, 1905. The host was a "*Platurus*", and the slide was mounted in Brussels in 1930.

What kind of "*Platurus*" could have been the host? Was it any kind of snake with its tail flattened vertically? Or was it the genuine sea snake *Pelamis platurus*? Considering the ecology of the latter, its parasitism by a terrestrial trombiculid would be almost unthinkable. The presence of such a terrestrial trombiculid would be less surprising on sea snakes that live part of their life ashore, as do the members of the genus *Laticauda*. It is well known that several representatives<sup>2)</sup> of the genus *Eutrombicula* parasitize snakes, but none of these snakes are sea dwellers.

Dr. G.-F. DE WITTE, of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, considers that the host of the controversial trombiculid could have been a *Laticauda*, as many representatives of that genus entered into the collections of the Royal Museum of Natural History of Brussels before and during 1930<sup>3)</sup>. Thus, the host was most likely a *Laticauda* sp. and the place of origin, Malaysian seas, or more widely, the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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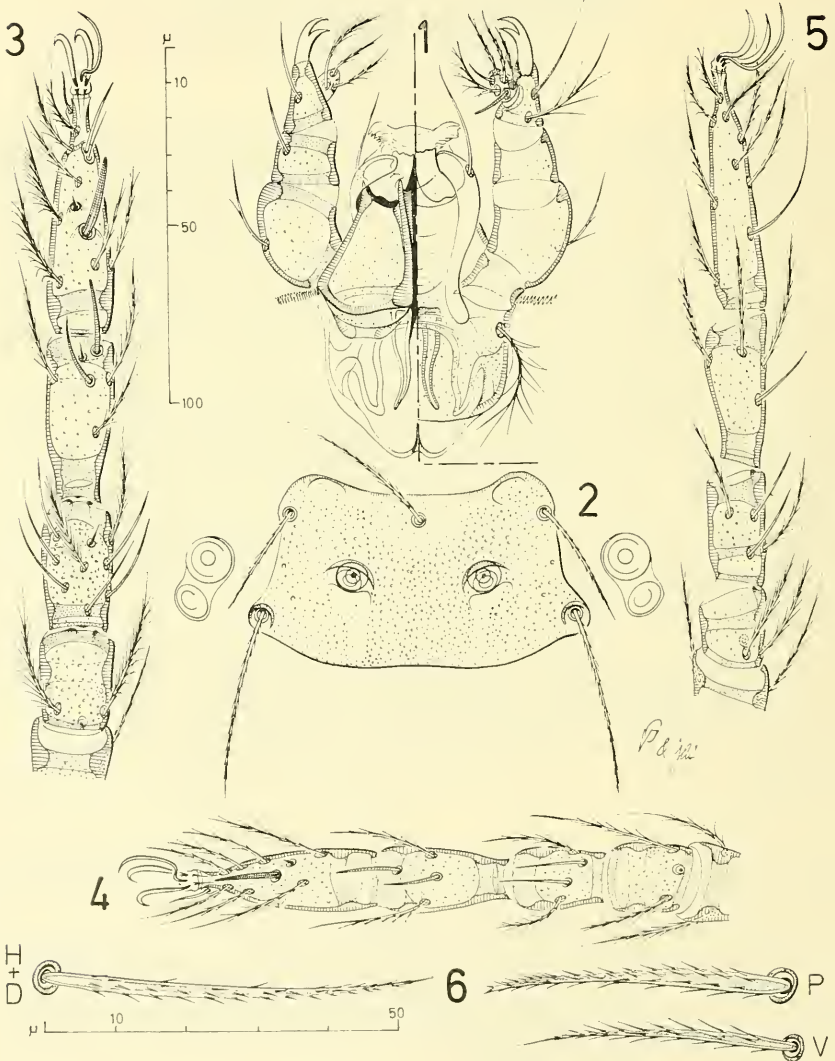
<sup>2)</sup> *E. alfreddugesi*, *E. splendens*, *E. goeldii*, *E. hirsti*.

<sup>3)</sup> In a letter dated 26 August 1970, Dr. DE WITTE specifies the following locations and dates of capture: Aru Island (Arafura Sea) (DUTCH NEW GUINEA), 24-III-1929; Triton Baai (DUTCH NEW GUINEA), 20-II-1929; Mansuar Island (DUTCH NEW GUINEA), 10-XI-1879; Bay of Manila (PHILIPPINES), before 1930.

The study of this unique specimen led me to conclude that it is quite unlike *Eutrombicula wichmanni*, which is larger and stronger. In addition, the most surprising feature of this trombiculid is the presence of diploid genualae on the 3 legs,  $ga = 6$ ,  $gm = 2$ , and  $gp = 2$ ; the formula for these is 3.1.1 in all the other known *Eutrombicula*.

I want to honor my friend and colleague, Dr. Egon POPP, in naming this new species after him:

*Eutrombicula (Eutrombicula) poppi*



**Eutrombicula (Eutrombicula) poppi** n. sp.

(Figs. 1—6)

**1. ECOLOGICAL DATA.**Host: ? *Laticauda* sp.

PT: ?

Loc.: Malaysian seas, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Date: ? 1930.

Type material: Holotype and unique specimen in Zoologische Staatssammlung, Abt. Wirbellose Tiere, München (WEST GERMANY).

**2. BIONOMICAL DATA.**

SIF = 7B.S-N-2-6221.1000      fPp = (B)-(N)-(N).N.B

(ST, pST, PT', PT'') = nude      fsp = 7/7/7

fCx = 1/1/1      fSt = 2/2      fBT = b/b/b

fD = 2H + 6.6.2.2 = 18 } NDV = 18 + 14 = 32

fV = 2.4.2u4.2 = 14 }

AW	PW	SB	ASB	PSB	SD	AP	AM	AL	PL
72	88	37	29	25	54	29	50	36	54

S	H	D	P	V	pa	pm	pp	Ip
—	54	51/46	44	38/54	294	260	286	840

**3. REMARKS.**

The two chelostyles unfortunately broken near base, and sensillae also missing. Slender and thoroughly nude mastitarsala on leg III about 52  $\mu$  long. Scutal and dorsal body setae tapering characteristically. Paired eyes (diameter 12 and 10  $\mu$ ).

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