

DESCRIPTION OF *RAILLIETIA FLECHTMANI* SP. N. (ACARI: GAMASIDA)

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Raillietia flechtmanni sp. n. is described from the ear canal of its type host the domestic buffalo. The new species parasitizes cattle as well in Brazil.

Key words: *Raillietia flechtmanni* – Acari – Gamasida – buffalo

The genus *Raillietia* Trouessart, comprises five described (Domrow, 1979/80) and one undescribed species (Sweatman, 1984). Except for *R. australis* Domrow recorded from the ear canals of a marsupial, all remnant species have been recorded from the ear canals of ruminants (Domrow, 1979/80).

To facilitate ongoing research on biology and ecology of the *Raillietia* species associated with domestic ruminants in Brazil, *Raillietia flechtmanni* is herein briefly described. The description will emphasize those characters that permit its prompt recognition from *R. auris* (Leidy) which occurs in synhospitality with the new species in the ear canals of cattle in Brazil. A detailed description will be published later.

Raillietia flechtmanni sp. n.
Figs 1 to 5

Female (holotype) – Slightly larger than *R. auris*. Idiosoma sacciform. Dorsal shield sculptured covering approximately 1/3 of idiosoma in engorged specimens. First and last pairs of setae associated with dorsal shield off shield (Fig. 1, arrows) (on shield in *R. auris*). Chaetotaxy of tibia IV 2 1/1 3/1 2 (2 1/1 3/1 1 in *R. auris*).

Male (paratype) – Slightly larger than *R. auris*. Idiosoma sacciform, slightly humped dorsally (strongly humped in *R. auris*). Dorsal

shield as in female. Sternigenital shield triangular in shape (Fig. 2), narrower than *R. auris* (Fig. 3). Setae av1 of genua, tibia and tarsi II peg-like (Fig. 4) (slightly shorter and irregular in *R. auris* as shown in Fig. 5). Chaetotaxy of tibia IV as in female.

Type host: *Bubalus bubalis* L.

Location: Ear canals

Type locality: Sabará city, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Date of collection: 17 november 1987.

Type specimens: The Fundação Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), RJ, Brazil.

Holotype female no. 100005, paratype male no. 100006. Additional paratypes at FIOCRUZ, Flechtmann's collection at ESALQ, Piracicaba, SP and senior's author collection at UFRRJ, RJ.

Etymology: Named in honour to Dr Carlos H. G. Flechtmann, a fellow Acarologist.

Remarks – The character state number of setae on dorsal shield has been used as a diagnostic feature for species of *Raillietia* (Potter & Johnston, 1978; Domrow, 1979/80). However, due to variation in number and position observed in specimens from Brazil, only the position of the first and last pairs of setae associated with the dorsal shield have been taken into account in this paper.

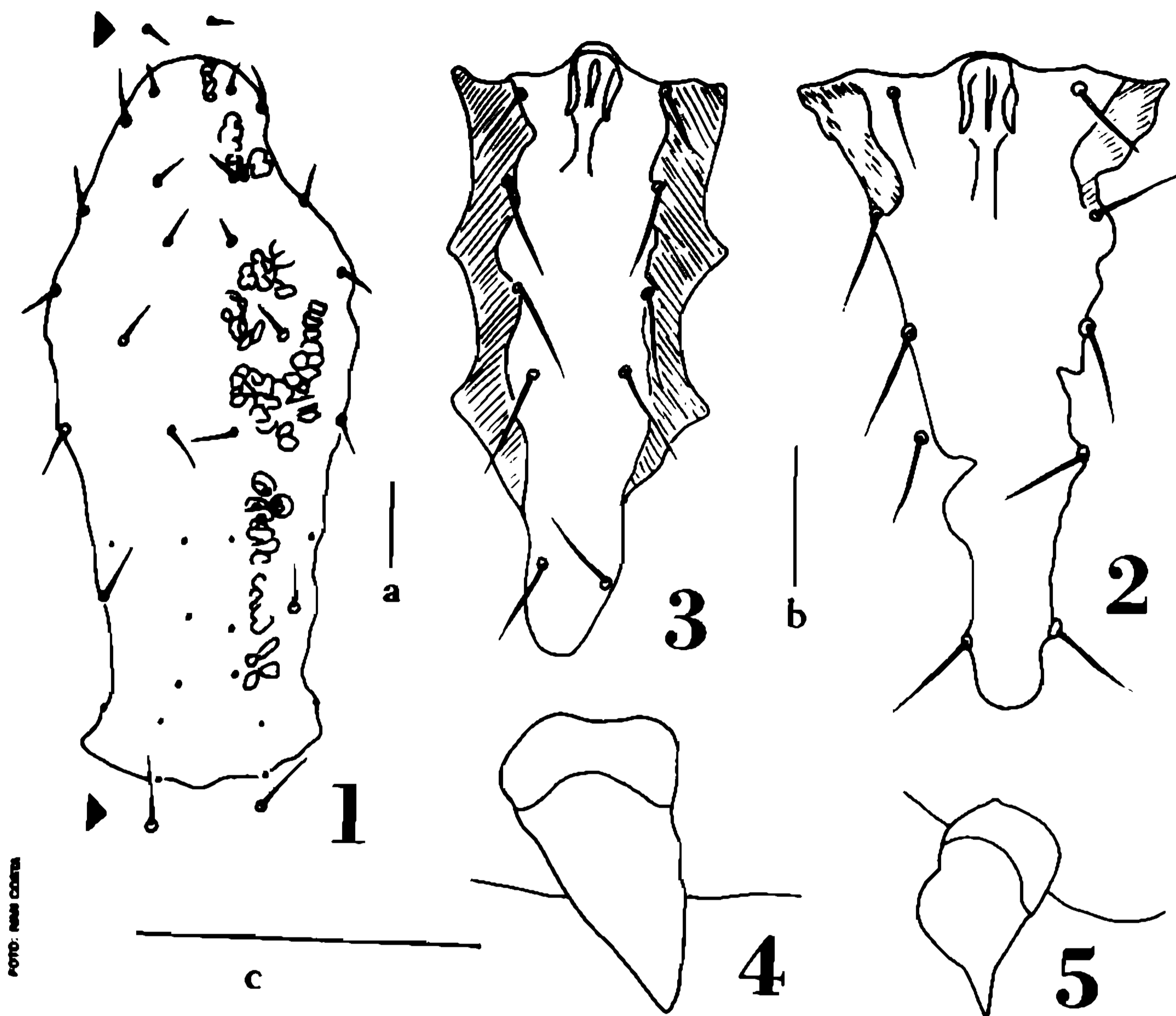


Fig. 1: dorsal shield and associated setae of *Raillietia flechtmanni*. Fig. 2: sternigenital shields of *R. flechtmanni*. Fig. 3: sternigenital shields of *R. auris*. Fig. 4: seta av_1 of tibia II of male of *R. flechtmanni*. Fig. 5: seta av_1 of tibia II of male of *R. auris*. Bars a (Fig. 1) and b (Figs 2 and 3) = 100 μ m. Bar c (Figs 4 and 5) = 50 μ m.

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