THE GENUS APONYCHUS (TETRANYCHIDAE, ACARINA[1]

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A new species of spider mite, *Aponychus vannus*, is described together with the other two known species. The genus is discussed further and a key to the species is presented. Also, new collection data of *A. corpuzae* Rimando, are recorded.

Based on the presence of a single pair of anal setae, a genus of spider mites, *Aponychus*, was recently described representing the third subfamily of the Tetranychidae (Rimando 1966).[3] This unique group of mites is not as uncommon as previously suspected and included in this paper is a description of a new species. It appears that all species *Aponychus* are graminaceous feeders and dwell mostly on the upper surfaces of the leaves. When numerous they tend to be serious pests of ornamental bamboo. Like a few other known groups of spider mites, they do not spin a web.

Genus **APONYCHUS** Rimando

Aponychus Rimando, 1966:107. Type of genus: *Aponychus corpuzae* Rimando; by original designation.

This genus is characterized by its markedly bilobate stylophore and the knoblike development of the empodium. The proximal segments of the legs bear serrate tactile setae while the more distal ones bear slender pointed setae.

The development of the outer sacral setae is variable within the genus. When not normally developed, the sacral setae tend to be displaced ventrally or are totally absent. This condition is rather anomalous but the tendency toward this development is already apparent among some species in the Eurytetranychini where the sacral setae exhibit a displacement in position and decrease in size.

Key to the Species of Aponychus

1. Lobes of stylophore with lumpy tubercles; outer sacral setae absent; idiosomal setae flat, and caudal setae palmate ..... (3) *VANNUS* n. sp.

   Lobes of stylophore without tubercles; outer sacral setae present; idiosomal setae not flat and caudal setae lanceolate 2

2. Lateral margin of propodosoma with obvious expansion; outer sacral setae located ventrally, idiosomal setae narrowly lanceolate or spatulate .... (1) *corpuzae*

   Lateral margin of propodosoma smooth and without any expansion; outer sacral setae located at margin of opisthosoma; idiosomal setae broadly lanceolate or spatulate ..... (2) *rarus*

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[3] L. Rimando, *Philippine Agriculturist* 50, 105 (1966).

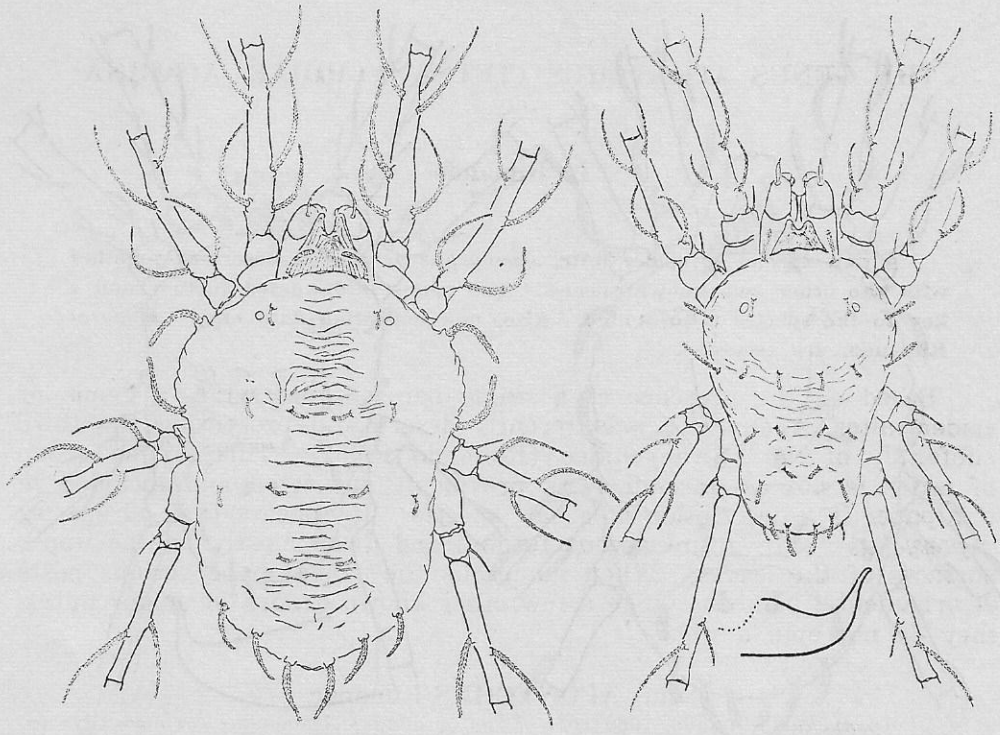

Fig. 1. *Aponychus corpuzae* Rimando: dorsal aspects of female and male, and an enlargement of the aedeagus.

(1) **Aponychus corpuzae** Rimando (Fig. 1)

Aponychus corpuzae Rimando, 1966:107; figs. 1-4. Type: female, Mt. Maquiling, Laguna, on *Schizostachyum lima* in the Dept. of Entomology, University of the Philippines.

Aponychus corpuzae is distinctive because of the presence of lateral expansion on the propodosomal margins. The legs are attenuate and the proximal segments bear arcuate, serrate tactile setae. The outer sacrals are weakly developed and ventrally located on the opisthosoma in the female. In the male, however, these setae are recognizable dorsally and are similarly developed as the inner sacrals. Transverse wrinkles or folds also occur along the mediodorsal areas of the idiosoma.

New collection data reveal that this species may be widely distributed in the Philippines in low and high elevations. Numerous males and females were collected in the College Campus from various *Bambusa* spp. Additional record: 10 females, 5 males, Calumpit, Bulacan, 1 May 1967 (*F. J. Velasquez*) on *Bambusa spinosa*; 20 females, 2 males, Silay Negros Occidental, 26 June 1967 (*Ruben A. Olaguer*) on ornamental bamboo.

This species was named in honor of Leonila Corpuz-Raros, a friend and colleague, but such dedication was inadvertently omitted by the press in the original publication. This indication stands to correct the omission.

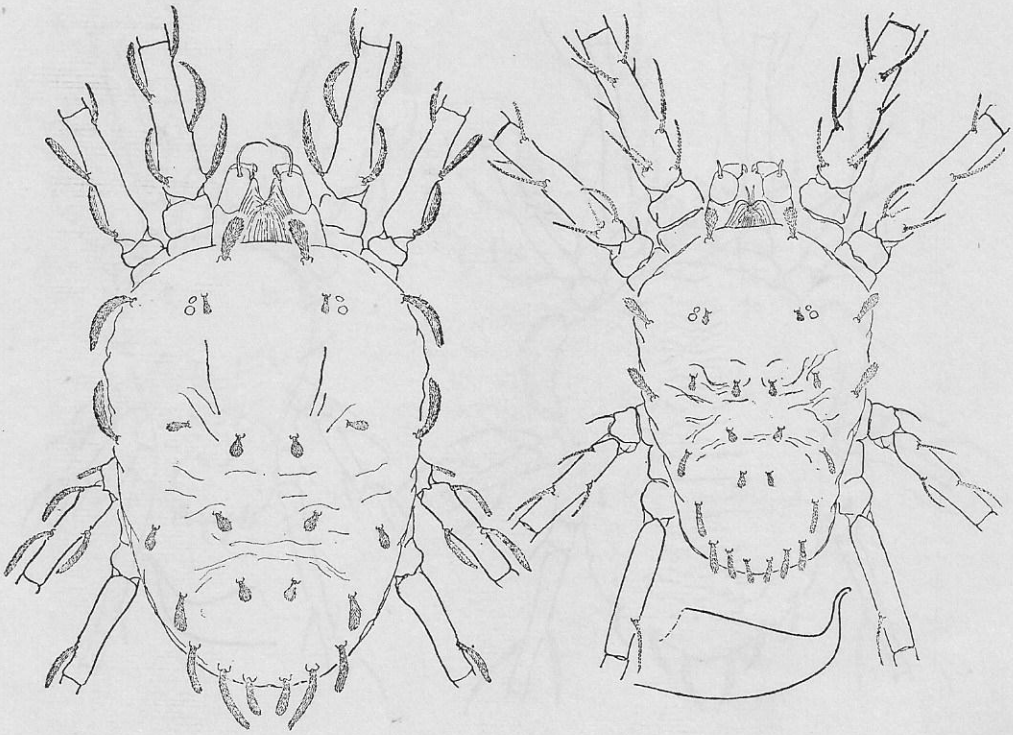

Fig. 2. *Aponychus rarus* Rimando: dorsal aspects of female and male, and an enlargement of the aedeagus.

(2) **Aponychus rarus** Rimando (Fig. 2)

Aponychus rarus Rimando, 1966:110 figs. 5 & 6; Type: female, Echague, Isabela, on *Phragmites vulgaris*; in the Dept. of Entomology, University of the Philippines.

This species is readily distinguished by its smooth propodosomal lateral margin and also the normal development and position, though marginal, of the outer sacral setae. The idiosomal setae are broadly spatulate or lanceolate.

No additional data have been as yet gathered aside from the holotype and paratypes.

(3) **Aponychus vannus**, *new species* (Fig. 3)

This species is differentiated from *A. corpuzae* and *A. rarus* by the presence of lumpy tubercles on the anterior lobes of the stylophore. The caudal setae are fan-shaped.

Female: Body rotund when mounted on slide; body of live specimens squarish. Legs slightly shorter than body length; proximal segments with tactile setae serrate, the more distal ones with slender, smooth and pointed setae. Stylophore striate with a pair of strong conelike lobes ventrodistally and a mediodorsal convex area; conelike lobes with lumpy tubercles. Peritreme indistinct. Tibia I with one sensory and three tactile setae, all located at near distal end of segment; tarsus I with three tactile setae proximal to loosely associated duplex setae. Tibia II

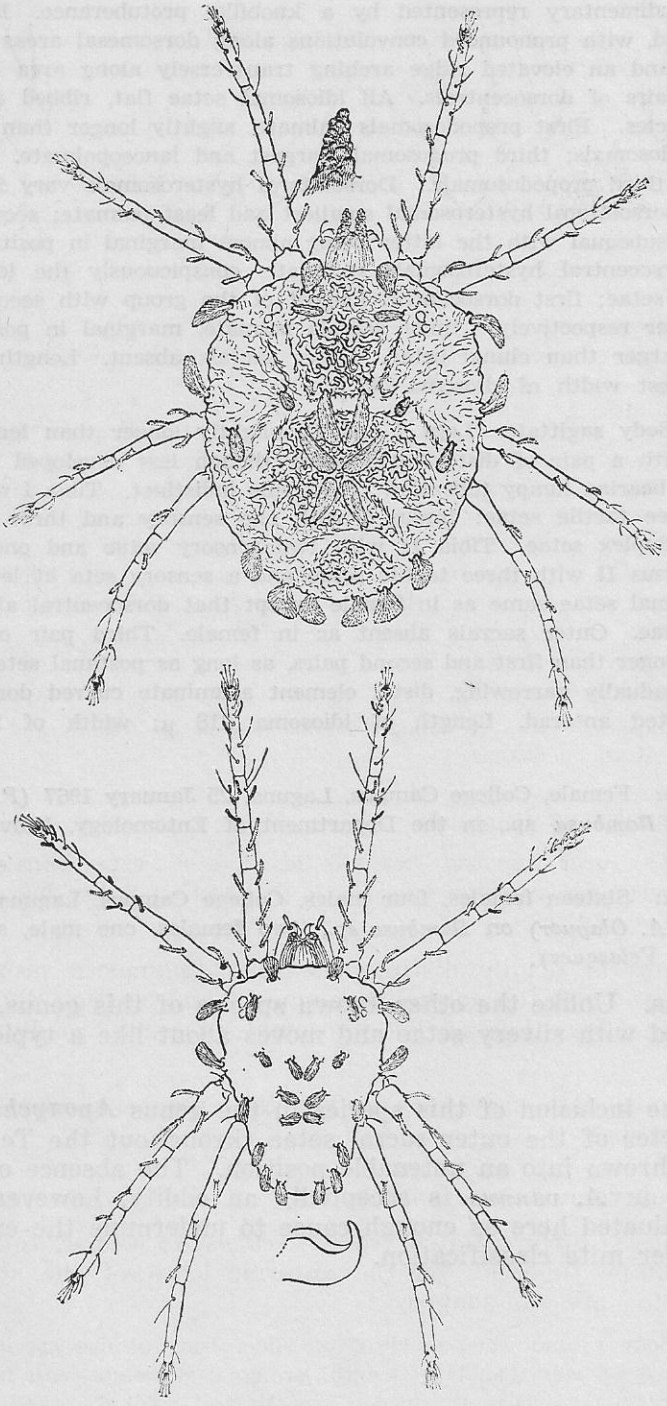

Fig. 3. *Aponychus vannus* n. sp.: dorsal aspects of female and male, and an enlargement of the aedeagus.