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A NEW SPECIES OF THE FAMILY MOCHLOZETIDAE (ACARINA : ORIBATIDA) FROM TRIPURA, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The family Mochlozetidae was established by Grandjean (1960). Balogh (1965, 1972) placed the family Mochlozetidae under the superfamily Ceratozetoidea Balogh, 1961 and accommodated seven genera. Balogh and Balogh (1992) in the book 'The Oribatid Mites Genera of the World (Vols. I & II)' shifted the genus *Uracrobates* Balogh and Mahunka, 1967 from family Ceratozetidae Jacot, 1925 to the family Mochlozetidae. They also transferred the genus *Drymobatoides* Jacot, 1936 from the family Oribatulidae Thor, 1929 to this family. Norton (1984) erected a new genus *Mochlobates* with the type species *Oribata affinis* Banks, 1895 under this family. Mahunka (1987) described another new genus *Calugarella* with the type species *Unguizetes sabahnus* Mahunka, 1987. Mahunka (1988) erected a new genus *Mahunkazetes* with the type species *Mochlozetes africanus* Mahunka, 1988. Balogh and Balogh (1992) in their book accommodated 12 genera under the family Mochlozetidae.

The measurement of the specimens are given in micron (μm). The type specimens are deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Genus *Unguizetes* Sellnick

1925. *Unguizetes* Sellnick, *Treubia*, 6 : 473.

Type-species : *Unguizetes triplicatus* Grandjean, 1960.

The genus *Unguizetes* was instituted by Sellnick (1925) with *U. sphaerula* as the type collected from Java. *Unguizetes triplicatulus* Grandjean, 1960 was considered as the type (as originally

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proposed by Grandjean, 1960) of the genus by Balogh (1965, 1972) (*Unguizetes triplicatulus* nom. Nov. pro, *U. sphaerula* Sellnick, 1925 not Berlese 1904).

Wallwork (1965) described *U. reticulates* from Tchad. Aoki (1967) reported another new species, *U. clavatus* from Thailand. Species under this genus also reported by Sellnick (1925), Grandjean (1960), Wallwork (1965), Aoki (1967), Fujikawa (1972), Chakrabarti *et al.* (1973, 1977).

Mahunka (1987) described *U. sabahnus* from Sabah and in 1990 *U. inermis* from Philippines.

Chakrabarti *et al.* (1973) reported the genus for the first time from Indian territory. Chakrabarti *et al.* (1977) and Sanyal (1992) reported the genus from West Bengal. The genus is reported for the second time from Tripura.

Generic Diagnosis : Fairly large species; lamellae connected by linear translamella; cuspis not projecting from line of translamella; no chitinous bridge between pteromorphae; notogaster nearly circular, as long as broad, setae entirely reduced and indicated by 10 pairs of minute alveoli, with 4 pairs of area porosae; legs moderately long and tridactylous.

Distribution : INDIA : Tripura, West Bengal. *Elsewhere* : Japan, Java, South Africa, Thailand.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES

Unguizetes granulatus sp. nov.

(Text figs. 1-3)

Colour : Brown.

Measurements (in μm) : Length of the body : 855-875; width of the body : 724-750.

Prodorsum : Prodorsum distinctly granulated; rostrum rounded; rostral setae moderately long (66), smaller than their mutual distance (84), thin with pointed tip, barbed outwardly; lamellar setae smooth, thin, long (122), smaller than their mutual distance (141), arise from translamellar crest; translamella with an undulation at middle and lateral crest which joins with broad lamellae; interlamellar setae longest (179) of all prodorsal setae, smooth, thin, arise from elevated base above dorsosejugal line; exobothridial setae short (28), thin, bilaterally barbed; sensillus with long stalk (94) and lanceolate head.

Notogaster : Dorsosejugal suture faint and incomplete like other members of this genus; pteromorphae immovable; notogastral setae represented by 7 pairs of alveoli; 4 pairs of area porosae, A_a, A_1, A_2, A_3 ; A_2 placed in middle of A_1 and A_3 ; notogaster densely granulated.

Ano-genital Region : Ano-genital region finely punctated; genital plates rectangular (length : 94, width : 85) with 6 pairs of smooth, minute setae; anal plates separated from genital plates by a distance of 150; anal plates punctated, squarish (length : 188, width : 188) with 2 pairs of

minute setae; 3 pairs of minute adanal setae; aggenital setae 1 pair, very short; *iad* parallel to anal plates.

Legs : Tridactylous. Leg chaetotaxy : I : 4-4-5+1-20-3; II : 4-3-3+1-11-3; III : 2-2-4-8-3; IV : 1-2-3-10-3.

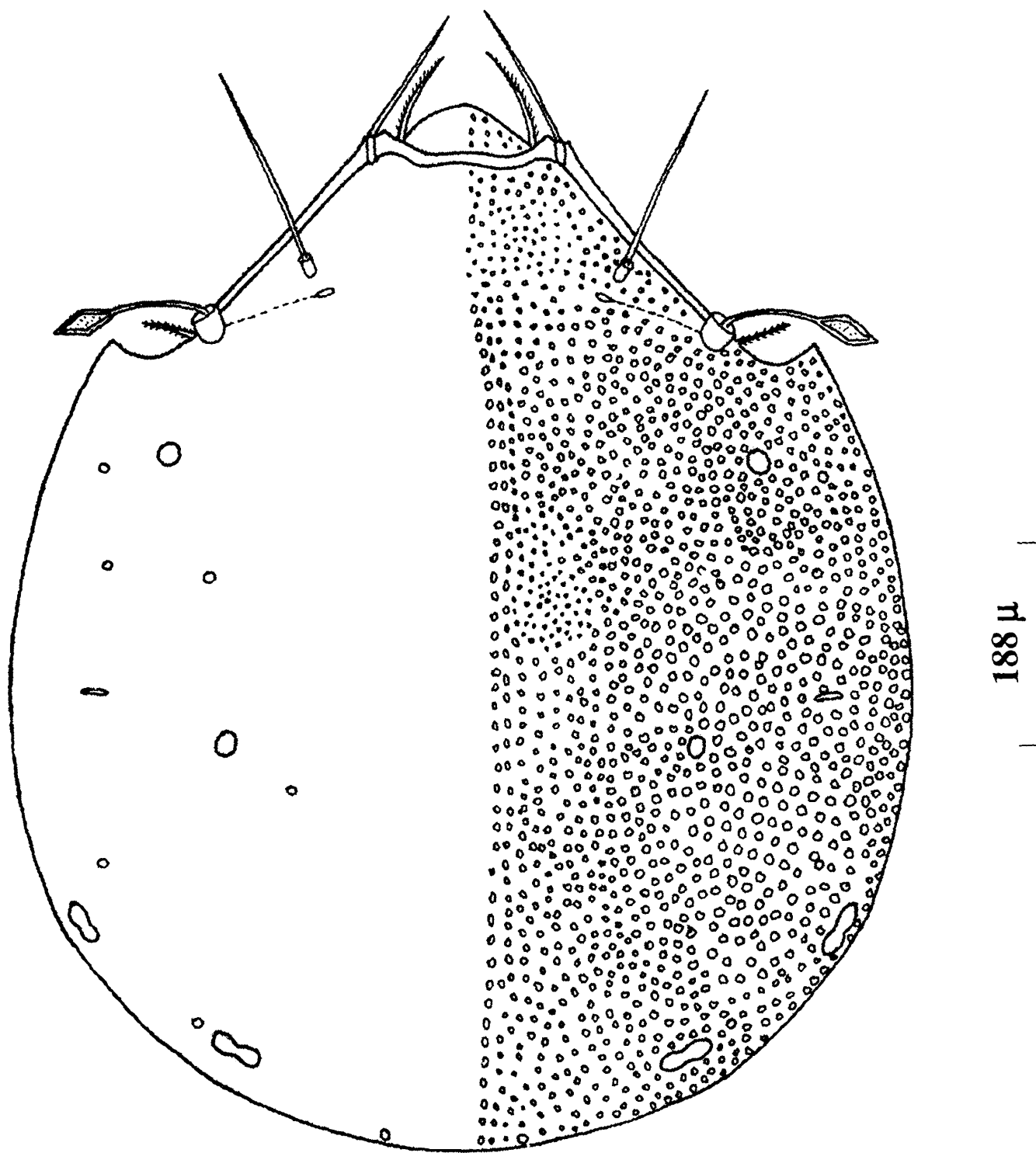


Fig. 1. : *Unguizetes granulatus* sp. nov., Dorsal view.

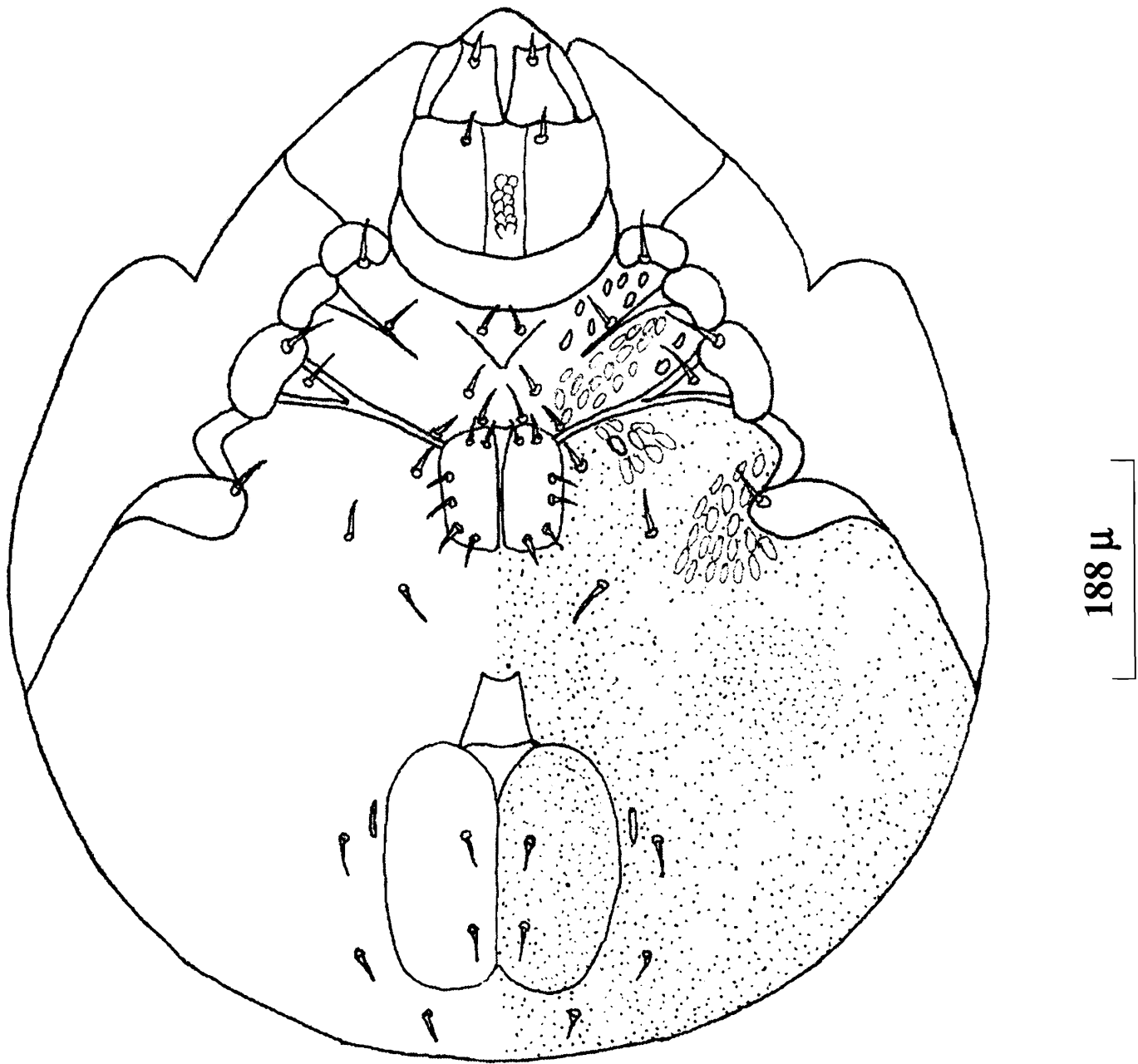


Fig. 2. : *Unguizetes granulatus* sp. nov., ventral view.

Material examined : HOLOTYPE : Adult female, India : Tripura : Birchandranagar (Amarpur), 12.x.1993, from loose humus with decaying leaves, stem and roots, coll. D. Saha. PARATYPES : 2 adult females, India : Tripura : Jatanbari (Amarpur), 2.i.1992, from soil and litter beside paddy field, coll. S. Saha.

Distribution : INDIA : Tripura (South District).

Remarks : The new species approaches close to *Unguizetes clavatus* Aoki, 1967 in body shape, nature of rostral setae and ventral characters, but can easily be separated from the latter species in having smooth lamellar and interlamellar setae, sensillus with long stalk and lanceolated head, fine

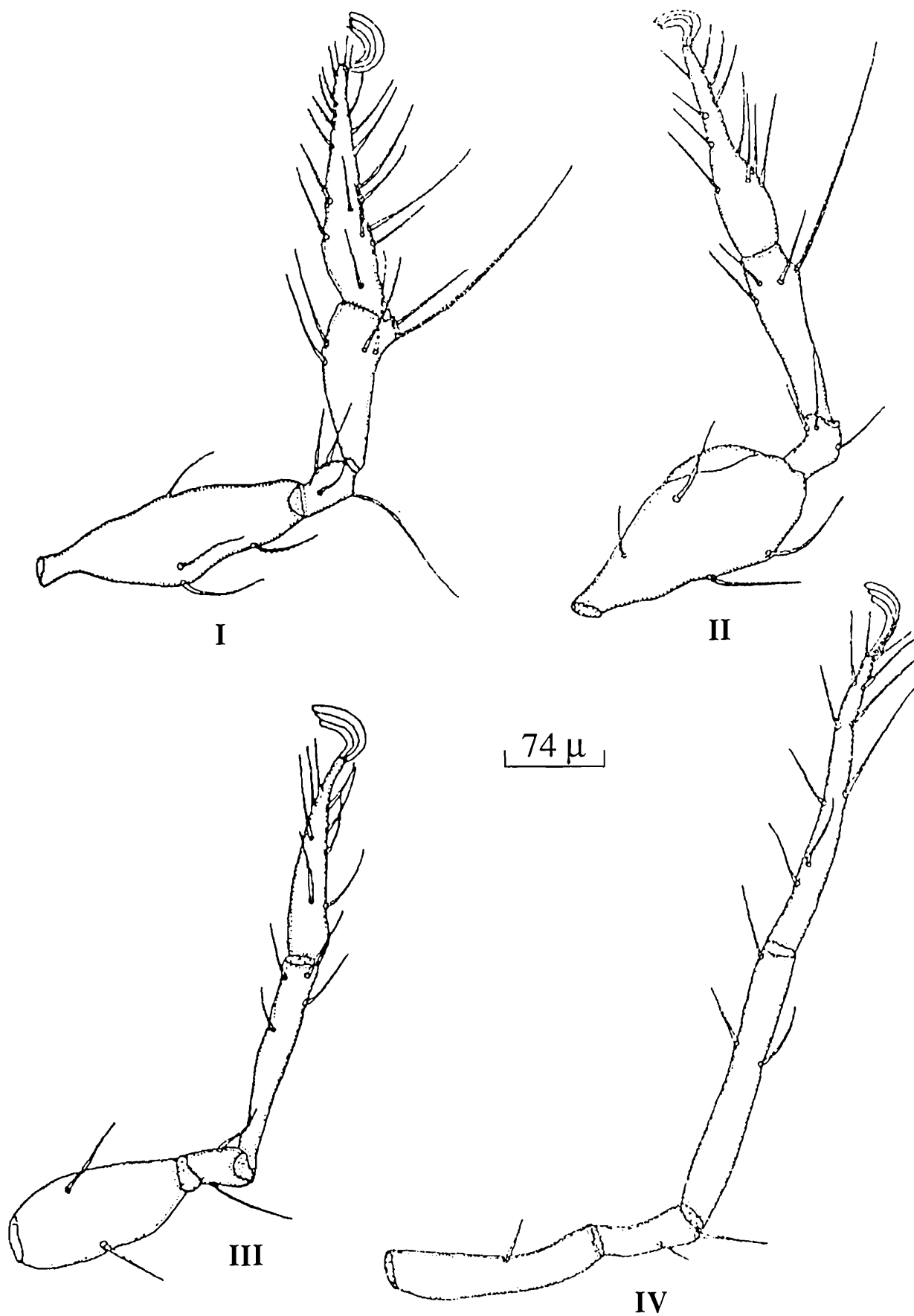


Fig. 3. : Legs (I-IV) of *Unguizetes granulatus* sp. nov.

granulation on notogaster, punctated ventral plates, absence of a projection in the middle of rostrum, absence of a crest behind the translamella and also in absence of beaded string like ornamentation on notogaster.

SUMMARY

The paper contains the description along with illustrations of a new species viz., *Unguizetes granulatus* from Tripura, India.

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