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**A NEW SUBSPECIES OF THE GENUS *GALUMNA* HEYDEN, 1826
(ACARINA : ORIBATIDA : GALUMNIDAE)
FROM UTTARAKHAND, INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

von Heyden (1826) established the genus *Galumna* with *Notaspis alata* Hermann, 1804 from Germany as the type under the family Galumnidae Jacot, 1925. The super family Galumnoidea Jacot, 1925 is one of the superfamilies under suborder Cryptostigmata of the order Acarina. These mites are commonly known as galumnid mites. The “characteristically-shaped” galumnid mites possess two wing-like “pteromorphae” at both sides of notogaster giving them a conspicuous look. Most of these mites are highly pigmented and heavily sclerotized.

They are inhabiting in all types of soil but predominantly found in soil litter, humus and compost heaps. Galumnids have a worldwide distribution including Antarctica (Subias, 2004).

In India, a total of 13 species of *Galumna* are known till date. Of these, six species have been described from India as new to science (Pearce, 1906; Ewing, 1910; Deb and Raychaudhuri, 1975; Haq and Adolph, 1980). The present report is based on the material collected from Uttarkashi, Uttarankhand during the taxonomic survey of oribatid mites in the area.

The measurements of the specimen have been given in micron (μm). The type-specimen on which the description of new taxa is based, is deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

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DESCRIPTION OF SUBSPECIES

Galumna (G). crenata uttarkashii ssp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

Colour : Reddish brown.

Measurements : Length of the body : 370; width of the body : 296; length of lamellar setae : 7; length of bothridium : 19; distance between lamellar setae : 93; distance between inter-lamellar setae : 63; length of genital plate : 56; length of anal plate : 67; width of genital plate : 63; width of anal plate : 78; distance between aggenital setae : 67.

Prodorsum : Conical in shape with indistinct rostral setae; lamellar setae simple, situated at the tip of lamella and clearly visible; interlamellar setae visible by pits only; both *L* and *S* lines are present; hysterosoma covered with granulated areas having light chitinization; bothridium elongated, sensillus long, spatulated and smooth (Figs. 1, 2).

Dorsosejugal suture incomplete; pteromorph with prominent median ridge, few slits and pit of *ta* present; notogaster with 4 pairs of clearly visible area porosae (Fig. 1); *Aa* largest and elongated but slightly curved in shape, 10 pairs of notogastral setae present; *mp* very small, circular in shape.

In ventral region, a crenate line present across hypostome; 3 pairs of epimeral plates distinct.

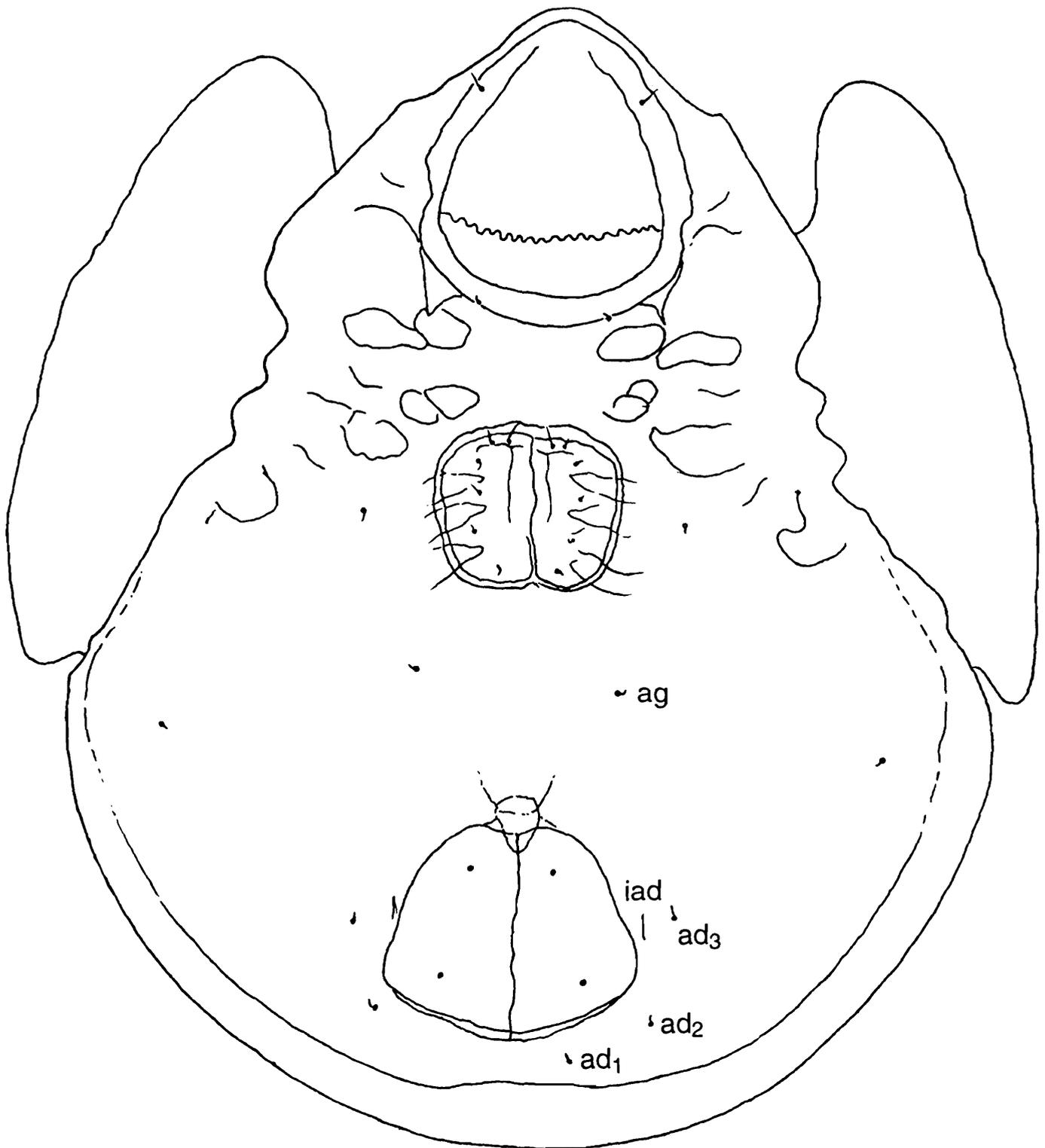
Genital plate with 6 prominent simple setae among them anterior two sets are closely situated (Fig. 3); aggenital setae very prominent, present at equal distance between genital and anal plates.

Material examined : HOLOTYPE : Adult female, India : Uttarakhand, Uttarkashi, Kutali village, on 7.4.2006, from humus under apple tree, coll. B. J. Sarkar & party.

PARATYPE : One adult female, data same as for holotype.

Distribution : Uttarakhand, India.

Remarks : The present specimens come close to *Galumna (G). crenata* Deb and Raychaudhuri, 1975 in general body shape, position of lamellar setae, indistinct rostral setae, position of areae porosae *Aa*, notogastral setae and crenate structure. The new subspecies however, differs from *Galumna (G). crenata* by incomplete dorsosejugal suture, well observed lamellar setae and smooth spatulated sensillus.



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Fig. 3. : *Galumna (G.) crenata uttarkashii* ssp. nov.
1. Dorsal view; 2. Sensillus; 3. Ventral view

SUMMARY

The new subspecies *Galumna (G). crenata uttarkashii* ssp. nov. from Kutali village, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, India is described and illustrated along with affinities with *Galumna (G). crenata* Deb and Raychaudhuri, 1975. The new subspecies differs from *crenata* by incomplete dorsosejugal suture, distinctly present lamellar setae and smooth spatulated sensillus.

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