

A NEW SPECIES OF *PLATYSEIELLA* MUMA (ACARI : PHYTOSEIIDAE),  
WITH COLLECTION RECORDS OF TWELVE OTHER SPECIES

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ABSTRACT

*Platyseiella mumai* sp. nov. is described from Tripura. In addition, twelve other species are reported from this region.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Platyseiella* Muma is so far known by its type, *P. platypilis* Chant (Chant, 1965; Muma & Denmark, 1970) and is reported only from Florida. The authors, while studying Phytoseiidae of Tripura, collected an interesting species of this genus and the same is described here as new to science. The present material conform with the generic diagnosis in all essential features except in having 3 pairs of setae each on sternal and ventrianal shields, respectively instead of 2 pairs on each shield, as mentioned by earlier workers. It is interesting that a genus which was so far known only from Nearctic region is occurring in India. In addition to the description of new species, 12 other species of this family are reported here, 6 of which were hitherto unknown from the state. The nomenclature of setae is after Rowell *et al.* (1978). All the measurements are in microns. The entire collection was made by the senior author.

*Platyseiella mumai* sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

*Female* : Dorsal shield gently rugose, 285 long, 128 wide, with 14 pairs of setae, setae j4, j5, j6, J5 and z5 small and simple while the remaining setae long, thick and serrate. Measurements of setae : j1—25, j4—7, j5—5, j6—5, J5—5, j3—34, z2—11, z4—9, s4—146, s6—61, Z5—90, z5—5, Z4—90 (Z4 apparently appear to be slightly longer and thicker than Z5). Sternal shield as figured, with 3 pairs of sternal setae ; metasternal setae on interscutal membrane. Genital shield narrower than greatest width of ventrianal shield. Ventrianal shield 100 long, 67 wide, with 3 pairs of preanal setae, 4 pairs of setae present on the membrane around ventrianal shield. Metapodal plates present, longer one 28 long. Fixed digit of chelicera multidentate, movable digit with 2 teeth. Spermatheca as figured. Macrosetae on leg IV : genu-38, tibia-61, basitarsus-34, distitarsus-33, all being spatulate,

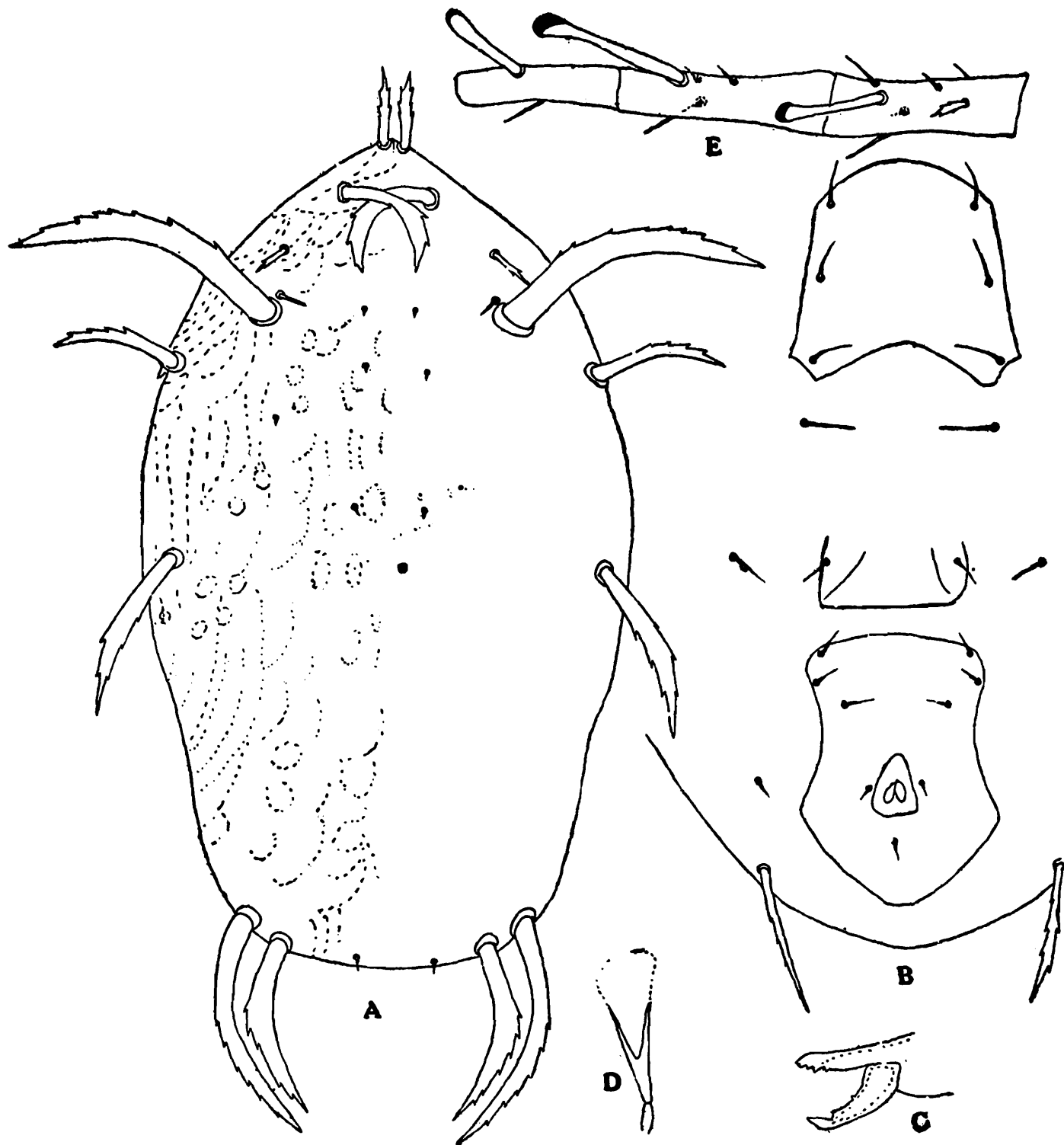


Fig. 1 (A-E). *Platyseiella mumai* sp. nov. : A—Dorsal shield, B. Ventral surface, C. Chelicera, D. Spermatheca, E. Leg IV.

*Male* : Unknown.

*Holotype* : ♀, India : Tripura, Agartala, Amtali, 10. vii. 1977, ex undetermined plant (ZSI Reg. No. 3137/17).

*Paratypes* : 3 ♀♀, data same as for holotype (ZSI Reg. No. 3138/17).

*Remarks* : This new species is distinguished from the only known species of this genus, *P. platypilis* Chant, by setae *z2* and *z4* which are longer than those of *platypilis* and the former being weakly serrate. In addition, the shape and number of setae on vent-

rianal shield also differ (3 pairs of setae present on the new species while 2 pairs present in *platypilis*).

**Phytoseius (Phytoseius) roseus** Gupta

*Phytoseius (Dubininellus) roseus* Gupta, 1969, *Israel J. agric. Res.*, 19 : 119.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀, Tripura, Agartala, 10. vii. 1977, ex *Rosa indica*.

*Remarks* : This species is recorded from Tripura for the first time. Earlier to this, it was known from Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal. It appears to be a common species and abundantly available on guava. So far, this mite has not been seen to be attacking any phytophagous mite in the nature. However, when this mite was kept on tetranychid infested leaf in laboratory, it showed its preference for eggs to the other stages.

**Amblyseius (Paraphytoseius) bhadrakaliensis**  
Gupta

*Amblyseius bhadrakaliensis* Gupta, 1969, *Bull. ent. Soc. India*, 10 : 127.

*Material examined* : 3 ♀ ♀, Tripura, Agartala, 10. xii. 1978, ex *Albizzia lucida*.

*Remarks* : This species has been reported from Andaman Isl., Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura and West Bengal on a wide range of plants. It is a fairly common species and appears to be active predator of tetranychid mites.

**Amblyseius (Paraphytoseius) narayanani**  
Ehara and Ghai

*Typhlodromus (Amblyseius) orientalis* Narayanan, Kaur & Ghai, 1960 *Proc. Nat. Ins. Sci.*, 26B, 394.

*Amblyseius narayanani* Ehara & Ghai, Ehara, 1967, *Mushi*, 40 : 77.

*Material examined* : 2 ♀ ♀, Tripura, Agartala, 28. vii. 1977, ex *Eupatorium odoratum*

Linn.; 4 ♀ ♀, Agartala, Ranirbazar, 4. vi. 1978, ex *E. odoratum* Linn.

*Remarks* : Since the description of this species from Maharashtra, this is the second record of the species.

**Amblyseius (Euseius) coccineae** Gupta

*Amblyseius coccineae* Gupta, 1975, *Intl. J. Acar.*, 1 : 39.

*Material examined* : 2 ♀ ♀, Tripura, Agartala, Sepai Jola, 21. vi. 1979, ex *Lagestroemia flosreginae*; 3 ♀ ♀, same locality and date, ex *Shorea robusta* Gaertn; 8 ♀ ♀, same locality and date, ex *Schima wallachi*.

*Remarks* : This species was described from West Bengal and now is known to have wide distribution in India, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Pondicherry, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, on a wide range of plants.

**Amblyseius (Euseius) ovalis** (Evans)

*Typhlodromus ovalis* Evans, 1953, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, (12) 6 : 458.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀, Tripura, Agartala, Amtali, ex undetermined plant; 5 ♀ ♀, Bisalgarh, 4. ix. 1977, ex bamboo; 8 ♀ ♀, 2 nymphs, Durjoynagar, 24. vii. 1977, ex *Holarrhena antidysenterica* Wall.; 2 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, 1 nymph, Amtali, 10. vii. 1977, ex *Macrocos paniculata*; 9 ♀ ♀, Sekerkot, 8. vii. 1978, ex jackfruit; 9 ♀ ♀, 2 nymphs, 1 larva, Durjoynagar, 24. vii. 1977, ex *Cassia fistula* Linn.

*Remarks* : This is also a cosmopolitan species and in India it is known from Andaman Isl., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal on twenty two plants. It was found to be efficient predator of a number of tetranychid species in Tripura.

**Amblyseius (Euseius) pruni** Gupta

*Amblyseius pruni* Gupta, 1975, *Intl. J. Acar.*, 1 : 40.

*Material examined* : 2 ♀♀, 1 nymph, Tripura, Agartala, Champaknagar, 10. xii. 1978, ex *Erythrina ovalifolia*; 2 ♀♀, Durjoy-nagar, 24. vii. 1977, ex jute.

*Remarks* : Since the description of the species from West Bengal, it has been reported from Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. Besides, the unpublished records indicate that it is fairly common in northern India (Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir) mostly on fruit trees and was seen to feed upon eggs of *Eotetranychus* sp. and *Tetranychus* sp.

**Amblyseius (Euseius) rhododendronis** Gupta

*Amblyseius rhododendronis* Gupta, 1970, *Oriental Ins.*, 4 : 187.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀, Tripura, Agartala, 10. xii. 1978, ex undet. plant.

*Remarks* : Since the description of the species from West Bengal collected on *Rhododendron* sp. and *Shorea robusta*, this is the second report of the species from India.

**Amblyseius (Amblyseius) largoensis** (Muma)

*Amblyseiopsis largoensis* Muma, 1955, *Ann. ent. Soc. Am.*, 48 : 266.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀, Tripura, Agartala, Bisalgarh, 4. ix. 1977, ex banana; 3 ♀♀, 3 nymphs, Durjoynagar, 24. vii. 1977, ex mango; 1 ♀, same locality and date, ex *Cassia fistula*; 4 ♀♀, 10. xii. 1978, ex litchi.

*Remarks* : This is one of the few phyto-seiid mites known to be cosmopolitan in distribution and has been reported from Andaman, Isl., Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Orissa and West Bengal on 35 plants of diverse types. This is an efficient predator of tetranychid mites.

**Amblyseius (Typhlodromips) daturae** Gupta

*Amblyseius daturae* Gupta, 1975, *Intl. J. Acar.*, 1 : 34.

*Material examined* : 1 ♀, Tripura, Agartala, Amtali, 10. vii. 1977, ex undetermined plant.

*Remarks* : This species is known from Andaman Isl., Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal.

**Amblyseius (Typhlodromips) suknaensis** Gupta

*Amblyseius suknaensis* Gupta, 1970, *Oriental Ins.*, 4 : 185.

*Material examined* : 3 ♀♀, Tripura, Agartala, Mohanpur, 28. vii. 1978, ex *Eupatorium odoratum*.

*Remarks* : This is a fairly common species in India and is known from Andaman Isl., Assam, Kerala, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura and West Bengal.

**Amblyseius (Typhlodromips) syzygii** Gupta

*Amblyseius syzygii* Gupta, 1975, *Intl. J. Acar.*, 1 : 44.

*Material examined* : ♀ 1, Tripura, Durjoynagar, 24. vii. 1977, ex jute.

*Remarks* : Earlier this mite has been reported from Orissa, Tripura and West Bengal.

**Typhlodromus (Typhlodromus) eharai** Gupta

*Typhlodromus eharai* Gupta, 1980, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 115 : 209.

*Material examined* : 12 ♀♀, Agartala, Amtali, 10. vii. 1977, ex undetermined plant.

*Remarks* : Recently, this species has been described from West Bengal and the present report is the first from Tripura.

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