

Data to the Uropodina (Acari: Mesostigmata) of Greece and Malta

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Abstract – Seven species of Uropodina are listed from Greece and Malta. Two new species (*Trichouropoda graeca* sp. n. and *Discourella maltensis* sp. n.) are described. Four species from Greece are recorded for the first time. With 10 figures.

Key words – Uropodina, new species, first record, Greece, Malta.

INTRODUCTION

The Uropodina fauna of the eastern part of the European Mediterranean is poorly known. Four species were published from Greece: *Trachyuropoda graeca* SELLNICK, 1931, *Trichouropoda plana* (SELLNICK, 1931), *Crinitodiscus beieri* SELLNICK, 1931 and *Urodiaspis nicolae* HIRSCHMANN, 1984. Two species, *Trichouropoda ovalis* (C. L. KOCH, 1839) and *Trichouropoda polycytenaphila* WISNIEWSKI et HIRSCHMANN, 1986 are known from Bulgaria (WISNIEWSKI 1993). Much more species are known from the western part of the European Mediterranean: 79 species are known to occur in Italy and 58 species are published from Spain (WISNIEWSKI 1993).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The Pedozoological Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum has a lot of soil samples from the Mediterranean region. Uropodina mites from samples collected in Greece and Malta are listed in this article. The specimens are deposited in alcohol in the Pedozoological Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum. The system and name of the species are according to WISNIEWSKI (1993).

LIST OF LOCALITIES

- No. 926. Greece, Peninsula Peloponesos, between Purgon and Parton, locality I, 18 August 1979, leg. GY. HORVÁTH.
- No. 929. Greece, Peninsula Peloponesos, between Purgon and Parton, locality II, 18 August 1979, leg. GY. HORVÁTH.
- No. 1139. Greece, Litokoron, Olimpos Mts, 2200 m a.s.l., from spruce and beech forest, 15 September 1984, leg. S. MAHUNKA.
- No. 1307. Malta, Mistra Bay, 25 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA.
- No. 1312. Malta, Cirkewwa, 25 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA.
- No. 1319. Malta, Ghar Lapsi, 26 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA.
- No. 1332. Malta, Gozo, Xlendi, 28 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA.
- No. 1337. Malta, Tal-Virtu Church (near Rabat) 29 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA.
- No. 1426. Greece, Thessaloniki, 23 May 1995, leg. A. OROSZ.
- No. 1430. Greece, Thessaloniki, Rendina, from a platan forest, 26 May 1995, leg. A. OROSZ.

LIST OF SPECIES

Trematuridae BERLESE, 1917

Trichouropoda ovalis (L. C. KOCH, 1839) – Localities 926 and 929. This species occurs in much of Europe, but in the European Mediterranean it is known only from Italy, Spain and Bulgaria (WISNIEWSKI 1993). This is the first record from Greece.

Trichouropoda elegans (Kramer, 1882) – Locality 1430. It is known only from North and Central Europe. This is the first record of the species from the Mediterranean part of Europe and Greece.

Trichouropoda graeca sp. n. – Locality 1430.

Uropodidae BERLESE, 1900

Uropoda cassidea HERMANN, 1804 – Locality 1139. It is known several countries of Europe but from the Mediterranean part only from Italy and Spain (WISNIEWSKI 1993). This is the first record of this species from Greece.

Uropoda woelkei HIRSCHMANN et ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL, 1969 – Localities 1307, 1312, 1314, 1332 and 1337. This species was previously known from Germany only, therefore its occurrence in Malta is quite interesting.

Discourella modesta LEONARDI, 1899 – Locality No. 1426. It occurs in the largest part of Europe but in the Mediterranean is known from Italy only (WISNIEWSKI 1993) and Turkey (ALI BAL & ÖZKAN 2003). This is the first record of this species from Greece.

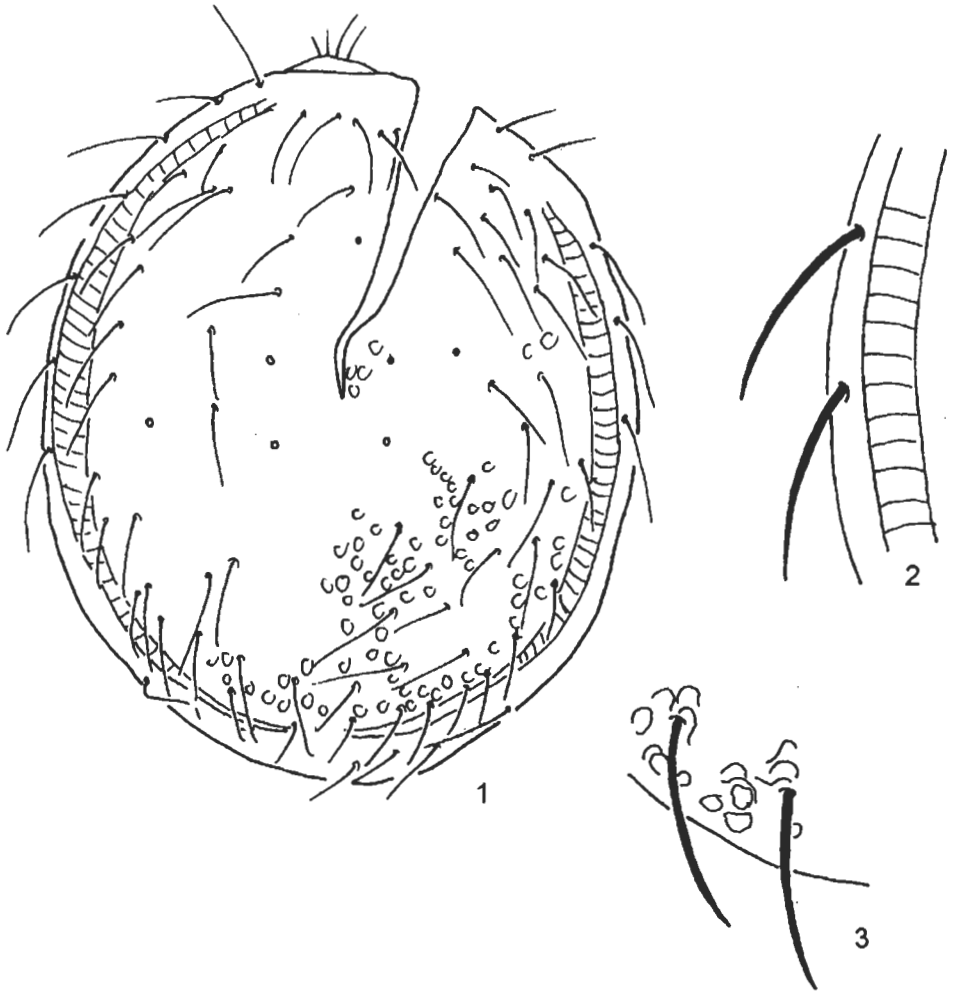
Discourella maltensis sp. n. – Localities 1307 and 1337.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW SPECIES

Trichouropoda graeca sp. n.

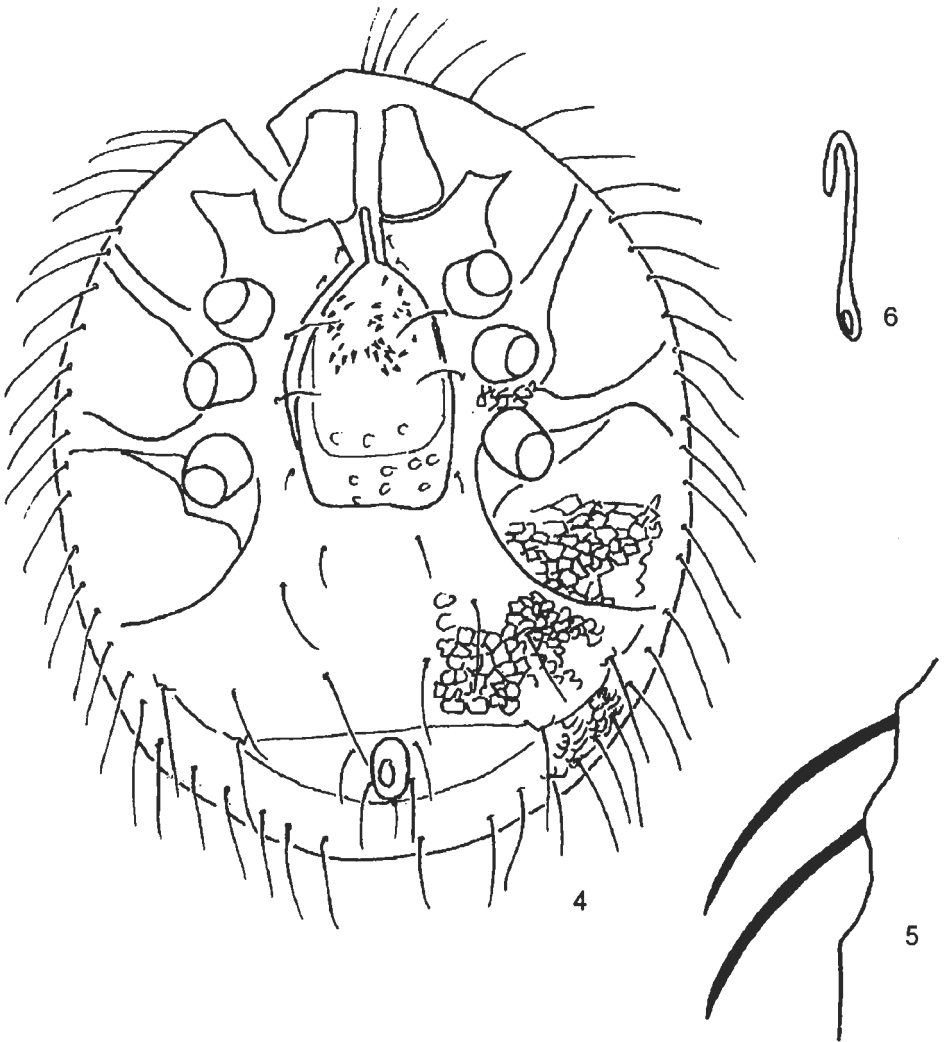
(Figs 1–6)

Diagnosis – Dorsal, marginal and ventral setae long, simple, needle-like. Genital shield large, anterior part with process and short, stark spines. Two sternal setae (S3, S4) longer than S1, S2 and S5.



Figs 1–3. *Trichouropoda graeca* sp. n.: 1 = dorsal aspect, 2 = marginal setae, 3 = dorsal setae

Description – Female. Length of idiosoma 800 μm , width 650 μm . Shape oval, posterior margin rounded. Dorsal side (Fig. 1): Dorsal shield with several long, needle-like setae (Fig. 3). Posterior and lateral part of dorsal shield with alveolar ornamentation. Interscutellar membrane between dorsal and marginal shield wide. Marginal shield with several long, needle-like setae (Fig. 2). These setae as long as dorsal setae. Ventral side (Fig. 4): Ventral shield and marginal part with rounded or isodiametric structure lines. All sternal setae simple and needle-like. St1, St2 and St5 shorter than St3 and St4. Ventral setae long, needle-like. Two lateral ventral setae placed a small hump. Ventro-anal setae shorter than ventral setae. All marginal setae long, needle-like (Fig. 5). Peritrema hooked (Fig. 6). Genital shield large, wide, anterior margin with process. Posterior part of the genital shield with alve-



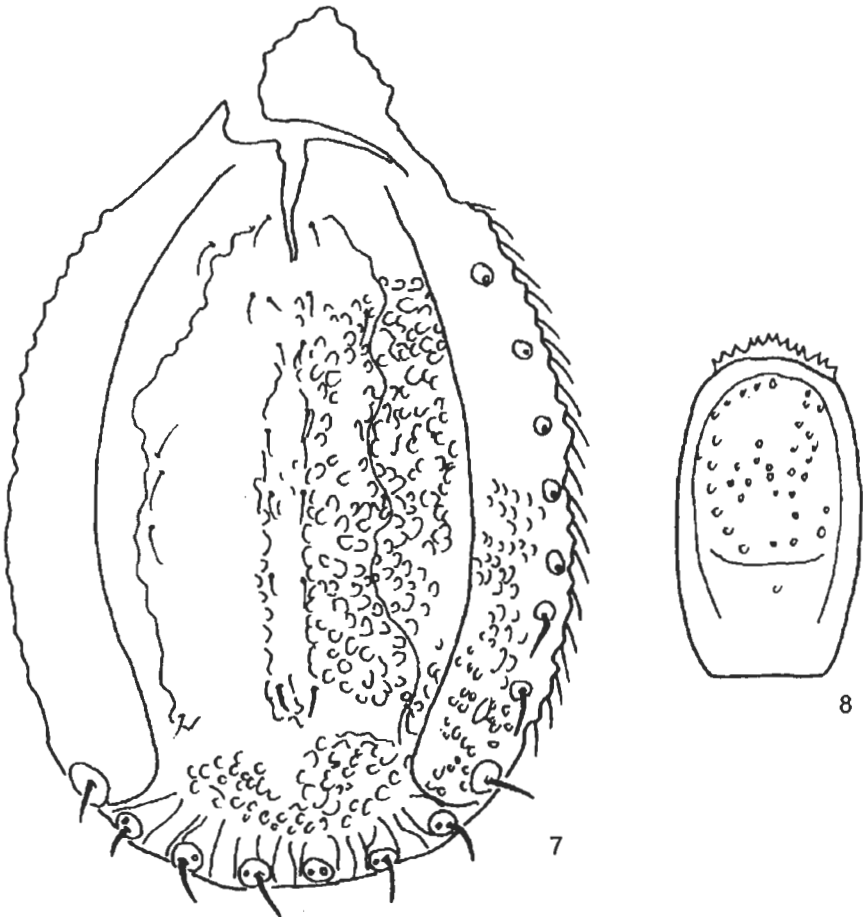
Figs 4–6. *Trichouropoda graeca* sp. n.: 4 = ventral aspect, 5 = marginal setae, 6 = peritrema

olar ornamentation. Anterior part with several short, bold spines. Gnathosoma not clearly visible (covered by coxa I.). Male, deuteronymph, protonymph and larva unknown.

Material examined – Holotype, female: No. 1430, Greece, Thessaloniki, Rendina, from a plateau forest, 26 May 1995, leg. A. OROSZ. The holotype is deposited in alcohol in the Pedozoological Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Remarks – This species is similar to *Trichouropoda plana* (SELLNICK, 1931), but the genital shield of the latter is with alveolar ornamentation only and without spines. All of the sternal setae of *T. plana* (SELLNICK) is short and needle-like, while setae S3 and S4 of *T. graeca* sp. n. are longer than other sternal setae.

Etymology – This species is named after the country of its origin.

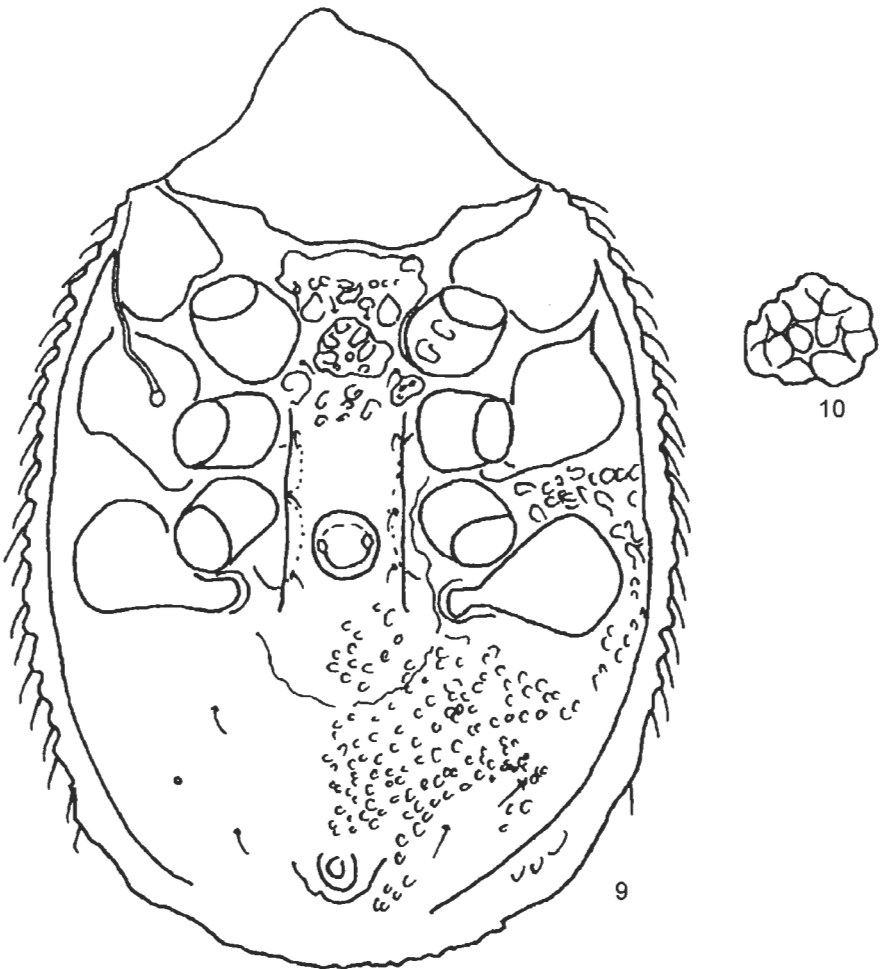


Figs 7–8. *Discourella maltensis* sp. n.: 7 = dorsal aspect, 8 = female genital shield

***Discourella maltensis* sp. n.**
(Figs 7–10)

Diagnosis – Caudal region of postdorsal part with three pairs of setae placed on small platelets. Genital shield of female with small rounded ornamentation. A large, irregular pit is present on the sternal shield of male.

Description – Female: Length of idiosoma 550–570 μm , width 390–410 μm . Male: Length of idiosoma 580–590 μm , width 400–430 μm . Shape oblong, posterior margin rounded. Dorsal side (Fig. 7): Dorsal shield of female similar to that of male. Dorsal shield without postdorsal shield. All



Figs 9–10. *Discourella maltensis* sp. n.: 9 = ventral aspect, 10 = pit of male sternal shield

dorsal setae short, simple and needle-like. Dorsal shield with structure lines. Eight pairs of marginal setae placed on small platelets. All marginal setae simple, needle-like, longer than dorsal setae. Caudal region of the postdorsal part with three pairs of setae, caudal setae needle-like, as long as marginal setae and placed on small platelets. Ventral side (Fig. 9): All sternal setae short, simple and needle-like, but St1 not clearly visible. Ventral setae longer, needle-like. Ventral shield with rounded structure lines. A large pit present on anterior region of sternal shield of male (Fig 10). Posterior margin of sternal shield rounded. Genital shield of male circular and situated at level of coxa 4. Genital shield of female oblong, with several small pores. Anterior margin of genital shield with several short spines (Fig. 8). Gnathosoma: Corniculae horn-like, coxal setae C1, C2 and C3 smooth, needle-like. C1 longer than C2 and C3. C4 short, with fine bristles. Epistoma, tritosternum and chelicera not clearly visible.

Material examined – Holotype, female: No. 1337, Malta, Tal-Virtu Church, near Rabat, 29 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA. Paratypes, 1 female and 2 males: No. 1307, Malta, Mistra Bay, 25 February 1988, leg. L. PINTÉR & A. VARGHA. The material is deposited in alcohol in the Pedozoological Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Remarks – This species belongs to the *cosmogyna* group (HIRSCHMANN & ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL 1969). It is similar to *D. cosmogyna* BERLESE, 1910. Major differences are the following: pit of sternal shield of male of the new species has an irregular form, while this pit of *D. cosmogyna* BERLESE is rectangular. Posterior margin of the sternal shield of the new species is rounded, while that of the sternal shield of *D. cosmogyna* BERLESE is rectangular. Female genital shield of the new species has several small pores, while that of *D. cosmogyna* BERLESE has similar pores bordered by structure lines.

Etymology – This species is named after the country of its origin.

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