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A new species of *Veigaia* OUDEMANS from India (Mesostigmata: Veigaiidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Veigaia indica* n. sp. from Uttaranchal, known from adult females, is described and illustrated. Its affinities are discussed.

Key words: acarology, taxonomy, new species, Mesostigmata, Veigaiidae, *Veigaia indica* n. sp., India, females.

INTRODUCTION

BHATTACHARYYA (2006) provided a detailed account of ongoing taxonomic research on the Indian veigaiids. He listed six species of *Veigaia*, of which two are known to occur outside India. In addition to the description of two new species, he (*loc. cit.*) provided a key to the six Indian species. Other works on Indian *Veigaia* include FARRIER (1957) and BHATTACHARYYA (1967, 1972). The present paper deals with the description of one new species.

Type specimens are deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. Chaetotactic concept of LINDQUIST & EVANS (1965) is followed in the following description.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES

***Veigaia indica* n. sp.**
(Figs. 1-5)

ETYMOLOGY

The specific epithet *indica* refers to India.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype female and two paratype females, Ranikhet, Almora, Uttaranchal; ex. soil under decomposed leaf litter; 18 May 1971; Sisir K. Bhattacharyya coll.

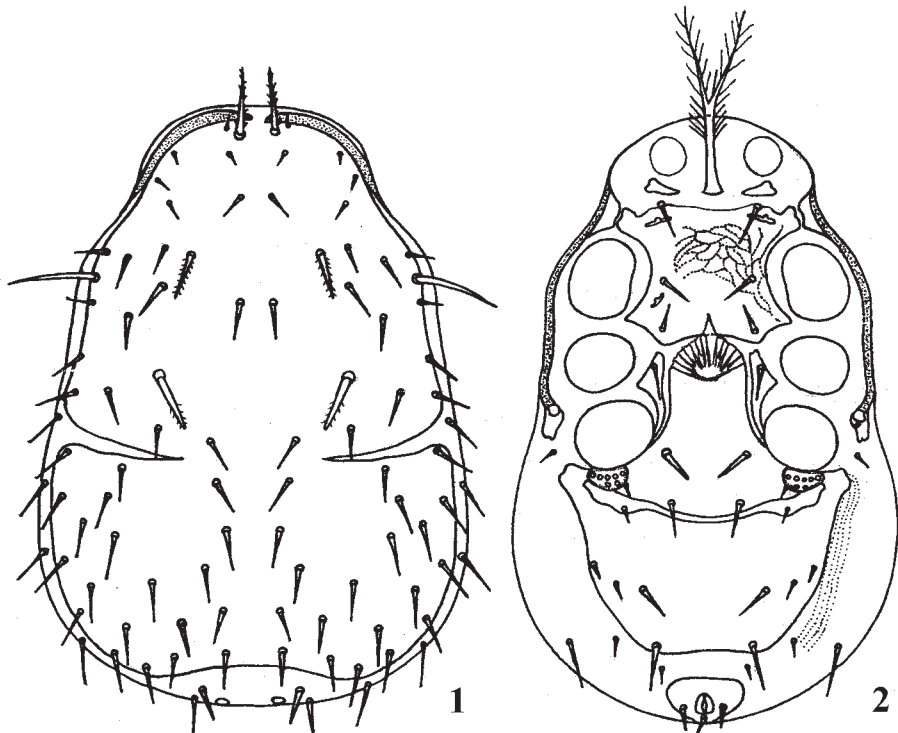
DIAGNOSIS

Dorsal shield with 42 pairs of setae; setae j1, z4 and z5 finely pilose; setae st3 shorter than st1 and st2; inguinal gland with 7 solenostomes; median and lateral projection of gnathotectum with serrated margin; genu of pedipalp with spatulate and comb-like setae.

DESCRIPTION

Female

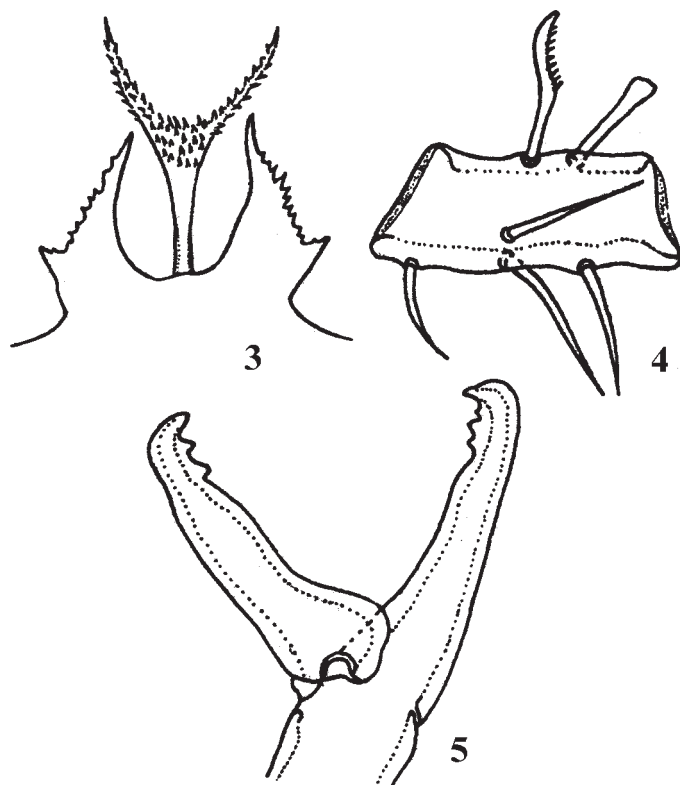
Dorsal idiosoma. Schizodorsal shield 780 μ m-800 μ m long along midline, 570 μ m-585 μ m wide at widest point; podonotal and opisthonotal region with 22 and 20 pairs of setae respectively; setae j1, z4 and z5 finely pilose, and 95 μ m, 65 μ m and 75 μ m long respectively; setae of opisthonotal region simple, mostly uniform in length (45 μ m-55 μ m); lateral membrane with 7 pairs of simple setae; posteromedian margin of dorsal shield slightly concave. Peritreme visible dorsally, extending anteriorly beyond setae j1 (Fig. 1).



1-2. *Veigaia indica* n. sp., female: 1 – dorsum, 2 – venter

Ventral idiosoma. Lacinae moderately pilose; length of lacinae almost equals to length of tritosternal base. Sternal shield (165µm long along midline, 150µm wide at level of coxae II) reticulated, with three pairs of sternal setae. Pre-sternal shields roughly triangular, medium-sized, placed wide apart. Metasternal shield with metasternal seta; metasternal shield free anteriorly but coalesced posteriorly with coxa IV. Genital shield fused posteriorly with ventral plate; ventral plate slightly concave posteriorly; genital shield with paired inguinal glands, each consisting of 7 solenostomes; posteromedian margin of sternal shield overlaps the anterior margin of genital shield. Anal shield smooth, with paired para- and a post-anal setae; chaetotaxy and arrangement of setae on genital shield, ventral plate and soft cuticle as shown in fig. 2. Stigmata small, placed on anterior half of coxae IV.

Gnathosoma. Gnathotectum tricarinate, lateral prongs emarginate, median prong Y-shaped, distinctly serrate (Fig. 3); four pairs of simple sub-capitular setae; hypognathal denticles not properly discernible; proximal seta of palp genu comb-like, distal seta broadly spatulate (Fig. 4). Fixed cheliceral digit with three teeth, movable digit bidentate (Fig. 5).



3-5. *Veigaia indica* n. sp., female: 3 – gnathotectum, 4 – pedipalp genu, 5 – chelicera

Legs. All legs with well-developed ambulacra and claws; other features of legs typical for the genus.

Male: Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION

INDIA: Uttaranchal.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

The new species, *V. indica* superficially resembles to *V. hurlbutti* PIKE & JARROLL, 1977 in the shape and reticulation of sternal shield, shape of ventral plate and metasternal shield and shape of chelicerae. However, the new species can be easily distinguished from *hurlbutti* by the following aspects: pilose nature of setae j1, z4 and z5, shape of genital shield, arrangement of solenostomes, shape of gnathotectum and shape of setae on palp genu.

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