

## On the synonymy between *Paraponychus corderoi* (Baker & Pritchard, 1962) and *P. incanus* González & Flechtmann, 1977 (Acari, Tetranychidae)

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### Abstract

In this paper we propose a new synonymy between *P. corderoi* (Baker & Pritchard, 1962) and *P. incanus* González & Flechtmann, 1977, based on the examination of type-specimens.

### Introduction

The genus *Paraponychus* González & Flechtmann, 1977 (Tetranychidae, Tetranychinae, Eurytetranychini) was erected to accommodate a sole species, *P. incanus*, collected from *Ipomoea batatas* in Peru. This genus was characterized by having empodial claw apparently absent, 1 pair of pseudoanal setae, 1 pair of associated setae on tarsi I, and dorsolateral setae *c2* absent. Despite earlier suggestions that the setae absent was in fact *c3* (Bolland *et al.*, 1998; Meyer & Vargas, 1999), we herein consider it as *c2*, judging by the developmental stages of *Aponychus chivegatoi* Feres & Flechtmann, in which the latter seta gradually decreases in size at each moult from larva to adult, being highly reduced in adults (4–9.5µm). In the latter species, the seta *c3* assumes its usual position for the genus when viewed on mounted slides, with its extremity pointing towards scapular seta *sc2*. This condition is also observed in the genus *Paraponychus*.

Four species are currently included within this genus: *P. corderoi* (Baker & Pritchard, 1962), *P. incanus* González & Flechtmann, 1977, *P. saundersi* Meyer & Vargas, 1999, and *P. kodaikanalensis* (Gupta, 1984).

During examination of type specimens of both *P. corderoi* and *P. incanus*, a striking similarity was observed between these species, in addition to intrapopulation variation in dorsal setae length. Therefore, herein we propose the new synonymy between *P. corderoi* and *P. incanus*, the former being the senior synonym. Leg setal counts are presented as number of tactile setae followed by number of solenidia in parentheses, with associated setae presented separately. Body length was measured from the region between prodorsal setae *v2* to the region between setae *h1*; body width was measured as the largest width, between *sc2* and *c3*. Measurements are given in micrometers. The material examined is deposited in the following acarological collections: USNM—United States National Museum of Natural History at Beltsville, MD, U.S.A.; MZ-ESALQ—Museum of Zoology, Departamento de Entomologia e Acarologia, Escola Superior de Agricultura “Luiz de Queiroz”, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil.