

***Tenuipalpus mansoniculus* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) of Australia: redescription of the holotype**

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Abstract

The holotype female of *Tenuipalpus mansoniculus* Ghai & Shenhmar, 1984 (replacement name of *Colopalpus mansoni* Collyer, 1973) is described and illustrated. The nomenclatural history of this species is documented and errors in the original description are corrected.

Introduction

Collyer (1973) described two new species of *Colopalpus*, including *Colopalpus mansoni* from leaves of *Pomaderris* sp. imported from Australia. *Colopalpus* was synonymised with *Tenuipalpus* by Meyer (1979). As a result, *T. mansoni* (Collyer 1973) became a homonym of *Tenuipalpus mansoni* De Leon, 1965, and was later replaced with *Tenuipalpus mansoniculus* Ghai & Shenhmar, 1984.

Tenuipalpus mansoniculus is one of the six species of *Tenuipalpus* known from Australia (Smiley & Gerson 1995; Halliday 1998), but it is the least known species among these six species. Since its original description by Collyer (1973), no further information is available. In a recent study of the Tenuipalpidae from Australasia, we reexamined the holotype of this species. Since the original description by Collyer (1973) is brief and contains some errors, we herein redescribe the holotype to enable correct identification of this species in the future.

The specimen was examined at 1000 times using DIC Nikon E800 microscope. All measurements were made from the slide-mounted specimen using a stage-calibrated ocular ruler and are given in micrometers (μm) (Zhang & Fan 2004). Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the rostral shield to the posterior end of the idiosoma, and the body width was measured as the greatest width between legs I and II. Setae were measured from the centre of setal base to the tip of the seta; distances between setae were measured from the centre of one setal base to that of the other. Legs were measured from the base of the trochanter to the distal end of tarsus (excluding pretarsus). Terminology follows that of Lindquist (1985).

***Tenuipalpus mansoniculus* Ghai & Shenhmar, 1984 (Figs. 1–4)**

Colopalpus mansoni Collyer, 1973: 531, figs. 2–3.

Tenuipalpus mansoni: Meyer, 1979: 5; Gutierrez & Schicha, 1982: 141.