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Harold G. Higgins
University of Utah

Stanley B. Mulaik
University of Utah

A NEW CAECULUS FROM OREGON

(Acarina: Caeculidae)

Harold G. Higgins[1] and Stanley B. Mulaik[1]

In 1954, Mulaik and Allred described a species of the genus *Caeculus* taken from moss at Oak Ridge, Oregon. This mite, *C. oregonus*, was the first species of this genus known to occur in that state. While collecting mites near Meacham, Oregon, the wife of the senior author found an undescribed species of this genus under conifers. The holotype will be deposited in the Acarina collection at the University of Utah. This brings to 19 the number of species known for the United States.

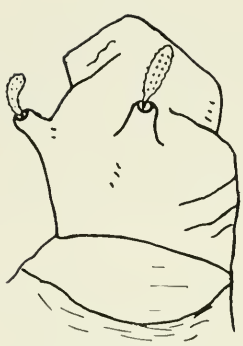
Caeculus mariae, n. sp.

Diagnosis—Propodosomal plate projects anteriorly over the gnathosoma; metapodosomal plate with nine setae arranged in a 3-3-3 sequence; the left and right metapodosomal plates each have five setae arranged in groups with a slitlike stigmata after setae two and four; trochanter I with two setae; the inner seta is curved and situated on a tubercle nearly as long as the seta, the second seta is nearly straight and located dorsally near the center of the trochanter.

Description—The length of the body is .90 mm. Width of the body at the fourth pair of legs is .60 mm. The propodosomal plate projects anteriorly over the gnathosomal tubercles and has four setae along each side. Two of these setae are located on each side of the propodosomal plate near the level of the eyes; the third seta, and the smallest of the propodosomal setae, is located near the anterior edge of trochanter I; while the fourth seta which is quite spatulated is located on a tubercle on the anterior edge of the plate. The metapodosomal plate has nine setae arranged in 3-3-3 order. Both the left and right metapodosomal plates have five setae, the first four of which are grouped in pairs with a slit-like stigmata between each group. The anterior transverse opisthosomal plate has four setae in a fairly straight row. There are seven setae in an irregular row on the posterior opisthosomal plate.

Leg I is composed of seven segments, slightly longer than leg IV, but shorter than the body. Trochanter I has one long curved, fluted seta located on a tubercle on the inner edge, and one straight, fluted seta located dorsally. The tubercle on the inner edge of this trochanter is nearly as long as its seta. Basifemur and telofemur I each have a long seta on their inner edge. The seta on telofemur I is approximately twice as large as the seta on basifemur I. Genu I has two large tubercles on the inner edge, but unfortunately the spines are missing. Tibia I has three dagger-shaped spines on the inner edge of which the anterior ones are the longest. Tarsus I has four short, sharp spines on the inner edge. Trochanter III has two setae on the anterior edge and one seta located dorsally.

1. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.



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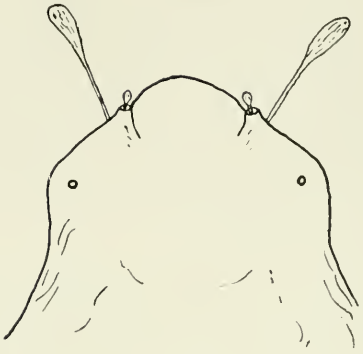

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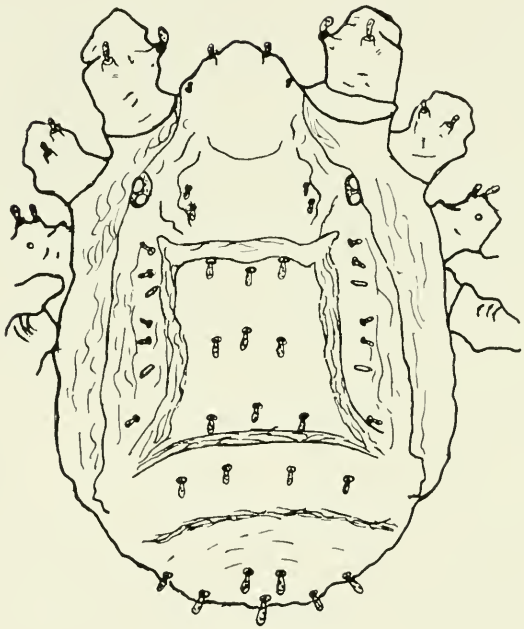

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Fig. 1. Dorsal view of right trochanter I.
Fig. 2. Dorsal view of anterior end of propodosoma.
Fig. 3. *Caeculus mariae,* dorsal view.

Discussion—Caeculus mariae differs from *C. oregonus* in that the propodosomal plate projects anteriorly over the gnathosoma, and by the number and arrangement of the setae on trochanter I. This

new species also differs from *C. calechius* Mulaik and *C. archeri* Mulaik, the other species of this genus possessing two setae on trochanter I, by the much longer tubercle on the inner margin of trochanter I and by the arrangement and number of the dorsal setae.

Type—The holotype, collected from needles and debris under conifers near Meacham, Oregon, August 19, 1956, by Marie Higgins, is in the collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Utah.

Literature Cited

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Mulaik, Stanley, and Dorald M. Allred, 1954. New species and distribution records of the genus *Caeculus* in North America. Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington 56(1): 27-40.

AN ALBINO SWALLOW IN UTAH

D. Elmer Johnson[1]

On Saturday, August 4, 1956, while fishing on the Provo River just below the Deer Creek Dam, Wasatch County, Utah, a white bird was observed flying with a flock of swallows. The birds were some distance from the observer, and though the flight of the white bird was characteristically that of a swallow, identification was uncertain. Some few minutes later, however, the birds moved into a meadow near the river to feed on the numerous insects flying there. The swallows, of which there were many, proved to be mostly violet-greens, *Tachycineta thalassina lepida* Mearns; with a few tree swallows, *Iridoprocne bicolor* (Vieillot); and an occasional rough-wing, *Steligdopterix ruficollis serripennis* (Audubon) intermixed. They remained in the meadow as long as they were under observation.

The white swallow was under close observation for about fifteen minutes, as it skimmed the river surface or darted about the meadow after food. During the course of its feeding it repeatedly came within less than ten feet of the observer, both above and below eye-level, making it possible to see all aspects of its body at fairly close range. The color of the beak, eyes and feet could not be determined with certainty, but not a colored feather of any kind could be seen. The shape of the wings and tail, the relatively short, blunt body profile, and the manner of flight appeared to the observer to be more characteristic of the violet-green than of the slightly longer-tailed, more slender rough-wing and tree swallows.

On Tuesday, August 7, 1956, the spot was revisited with the hope of being able to collect this interesting albino and thereby making certain of its identity. But though many swallows were feeding in the meadow and many others were resting on the branches of nearby trees and on telephone wires, the white bird was not seen.

1. Ecological Research, University of Utah, Dugway, Utah.