



9-15-1966

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Recommended Citation

Allred, Dorald M. (1966) "Unusual records of Utah mites," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 26 : No. 1 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol26/iss1/4>

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UNUSUAL RECORDS OF UTAH MITES

Dorald M. Allred¹

During an ecological study of the reptiles of the Great Salt Lake Desert in 1953, thirty-five Desert Whipsnakes, six Great Basin Gopher Snakes, nine Great Basin Rattlesnakes, several Western Collared Lizards, and several Northern Brown-Shouldered Lizards were examined for parasites. The lizards were collected in Dugway Valley, and the whipsnakes, five gopher snakes, and four rattlesnakes from a den at the south end of Cedar Mountains. One gopher snake and five rattlesnakes were taken from the lower slopes of the desert mountains of Dugway Valley. All collections were in Tooele County.

The mites were mounted by Ernest J. Roscoe and determined and/or verified by Dr. James M. Brennan, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana; Dr. Charles D. Radford, Nuffield Laboratory, Manchester, England; and Dr. Russell W. Strandtmann, Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas. Lack of keys and descriptions, and damaged or immature specimens prevented identification of some mites beyond family or genus.

In the following list the numbers of hosts infested and mites collected are indicated after their names.

Western Collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris baileyi*) 1

Acomatacarus sp., 4 larvae

Northern Brown-Shouldered Lizard

(*Uta stansburiana stansburiana*) 1

Acomatacarus arizonensis, 4 larvae

Desert Whipsnake (*Coluber taeniatus taeniatus*) 9

Acomatacarus linsdalei, 3 larvae

Ellsworthia sp., 2 nymphs, 1 male

Ornithonyssus bacoti, 1 female

Trombicula arenicola, 25 larvae

Trombicula sp. (probably *arenicola*), 8 larvae

Acaridae, 2 hypopus nymphs

Analgesidae, 1 specimen

Dermoglyphidae, 51 females, 24 males

Great Basin Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*) 2

Acomatacarus linsdalei, 6 larvae

Trombicula arenicola, 1 larva

Trombicula sp. (probably *arenicola*), 4 larvae

All the mites were attached except the single *Ornithonyssus bacoti* taken from the hand of the collector after he handled a snake. The Analgesidae and Dermoglyphidae are typically feather mites, and their occurrence on snakes is most unusual. Each of eighteen female dermoglyphids contained one egg.

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