

**LUTRACARUS CANADENSIS, N. G., N. SP. (ACARI: LISTROPHORIDAE)
FROM THE RIVER OTTER, *LUTRA CANADENSIS***

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Abstract. *Lutracus canadensis*, n. g., n. sp., is described from the River Otter, *Lutra canadensis*. The same host also yielded specimens of *Lynxacarus mustelae* (Mégnin, 1885) (new host record). The new genus is clearly distinguished from *Lynxacarus* by the absence or vestigial state of the adanal suckers in the male and the presence of a ventral spine on tarsi III and IV of the female.

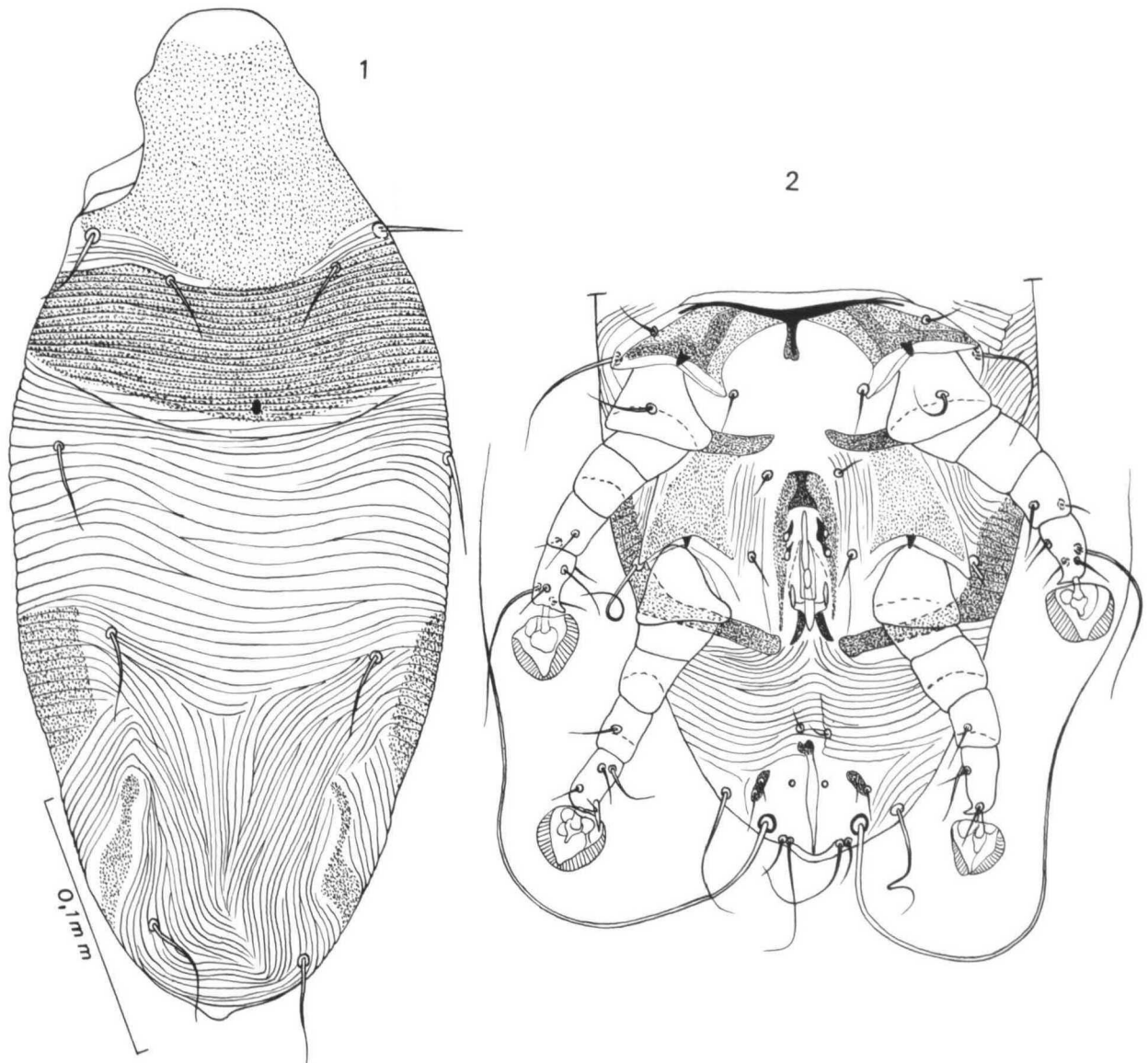


FIG. 1-2. *Lutracus canadensis*, n. g., n. sp. ♂: 1, dorsal surface; 2, hystergaster.

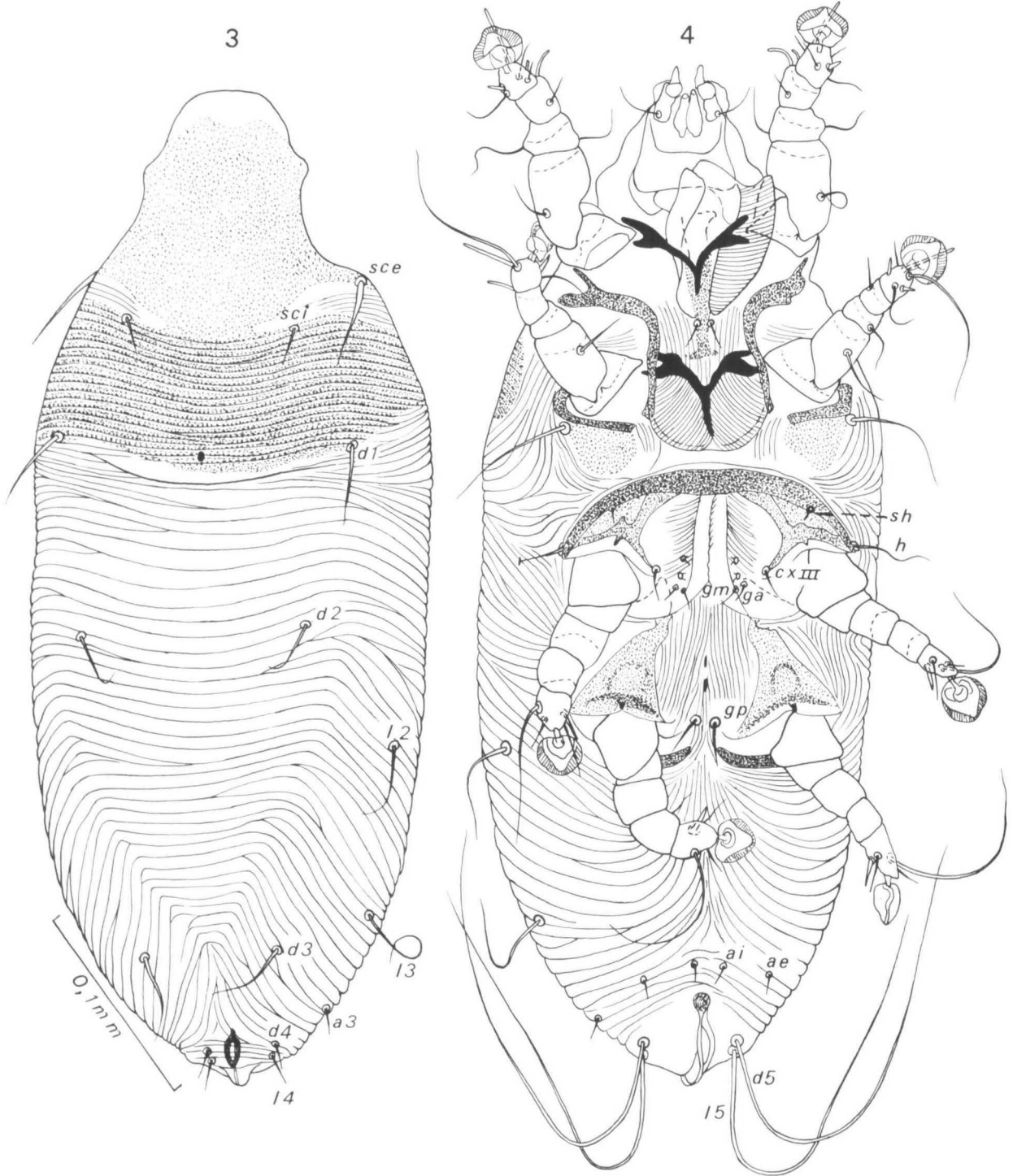


FIG. 3-4. *Lutracarus canadensis*, n. g., n. sp. ♀: 3, dorsum; 4, venter.

The new genus and species, *Lutracarus canadensis*, that we describe here was found by Mr R. Wood, Biologist, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on the River Otter, *Lutra canadensis*

(Schreber), in southeastern Alaska. The new species was mixed with *Lynxacarus mustelae* (Méglin, 1885), a well-known listrophorid commonly found on various Mustelidae in Europe and also

recorded from North America (Fain & Hyland 1974, Fain 1978). The River Otter is a new host for *L. mustelae*.

Family LISTROPHORIDAE

Lutracarus Fain & Yunker, new genus

Definition. Distinguished from *Lynxacarus* Radford, 1951 in the ♂ mainly by absence or vestigial state of adanal suckers and by reduction of sclerite in front of penis, and in the ♀ by presence of a medium-sized ventral spine on tarsi III and IV. Chitinous, U-shaped, postanal frame of ♂ very poorly developed and incomplete. In both sexes postscapular shield entire and with numerous transverse striations. Other characters as in *Lynxacarus*.

Type species. *Lutracarus canadensis*, n. sp.

Lutracarus canadensis Fain & Yunker, new species FIG. 1-4

♂ (FIG. 1-2). *Idiosoma* of holotype 376 μm long by 163 μm wide; of 4 paratypes: 349 μm by 157 μm , 375 μm by 160 μm , 380 μm by 159 μm and 390 μm by 162 μm . Posterior extremity rounded, without median incision. Opisthosoma short (90 μm long). Body setae rather short. *Dorsum.* Postscapular shield fused in its median part with prescapular shield, 60 μm long at midline, bearing 30-40 striations at midline and about 30-35 striations laterally along a longitudinal line behind setae *sc i*. These striations formed from very small, pale punctations. Hysterosoma with 1 pair of small, lateral opisthosomal shields, which are not fused with paracoxal shields of coxae IV. Bases of setae *sc e* thick. *Venter.* Propodosoma as in *Lynxacarus*: a large, strongly sclerotized curved band connecting the posterior area of coxa I with the lateral prolongation of prescapular shield. Epimera III fused at midline. Adanal suckers either absent or very small and vestigial. The U-shaped postanal frame present in *Lynxacarus* (*Lynxacarus*) incomplete and represented only by 2 pairs of small, lateral punctate areas. Penis short and narrow, with a short anterior sclerite bearing only narrow and poorly sclerotized lateral arms. *Legs.* All ending in

a large sucker. Posterior legs (III and IV) compressed laterally, rather large. Tarsi III and IV with a small, ventrally curved, apical process.

♀ (FIG. 3-4). *Idiosoma* of allotype 471 μm long by 189 μm wide; of 3 paratypes: 435 μm by 180 μm , 465 μm by 182 μm and 473 μm by 195 μm . Body setae rather short except *l 1*, *l 2* and *l 3* (50-60 μm) and *d 5* and *l 5* (about 150 μm). *Dorsum.* Postscapular shield 63 μm long in midline, fused in its median part with prescapular shield, bearing approximately 35-40 punctate striations at midline. Hysterosoma striated, without shields. *Venter.* Propodosoma as in ♂. Epimera III fused at midline. Opisthosoma striated, without shields or scales. Anus ventro-terminal. Bursa not observed. *Legs.* Posterior legs smaller than in ♂. Tarsi III and IV without apical curved process but bearing a ventral spine and several simple setae.

Holotype ♂ and 10 paratype ♂, allotype and 25 paratype ♀, on River Otter, *Lutra canadensis* (Schreber), ALASKA: George's Inlet, near Ketchikan, I.78, R. Wood, No. 5080. These specimens were mixed with a few specimens of *Lynxacarus mustelae* (Méglin). Holotype, allotype and some paratypes in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.; other paratypes in the Institut de Médecine Tropicale Prince Léopold, Antwerpen; Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu; and British Museum (Natural History), London.

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