

Zeitschrift: Acta Tropica
Herausgeber: Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut (Basel)
Band: 27 (1970)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Miscellanea : Terrestrial snail a new host for trombiculid larvae
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-311639>

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Terrestrial Snail a New Host for Trombiculid Larvae

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To our knowledge, larval chiggers (Acarina: Trombiculidae) have never been found parasitizing molluscs. In fact, very few groups of acarines do parasitize those invertebrates, and, even so, most of them only live on or in molluscs as commensals and not at the expense of the host. In this way members of the families Pontarachnidae, Unionicolidae, and Halacaridae inhabit the mantle and the gills of certain lamellibranches (marine and fresh-water) such as oysters, clams, and mussels, and the gills of certain aquatic gastropods like *Ampullaria* in South

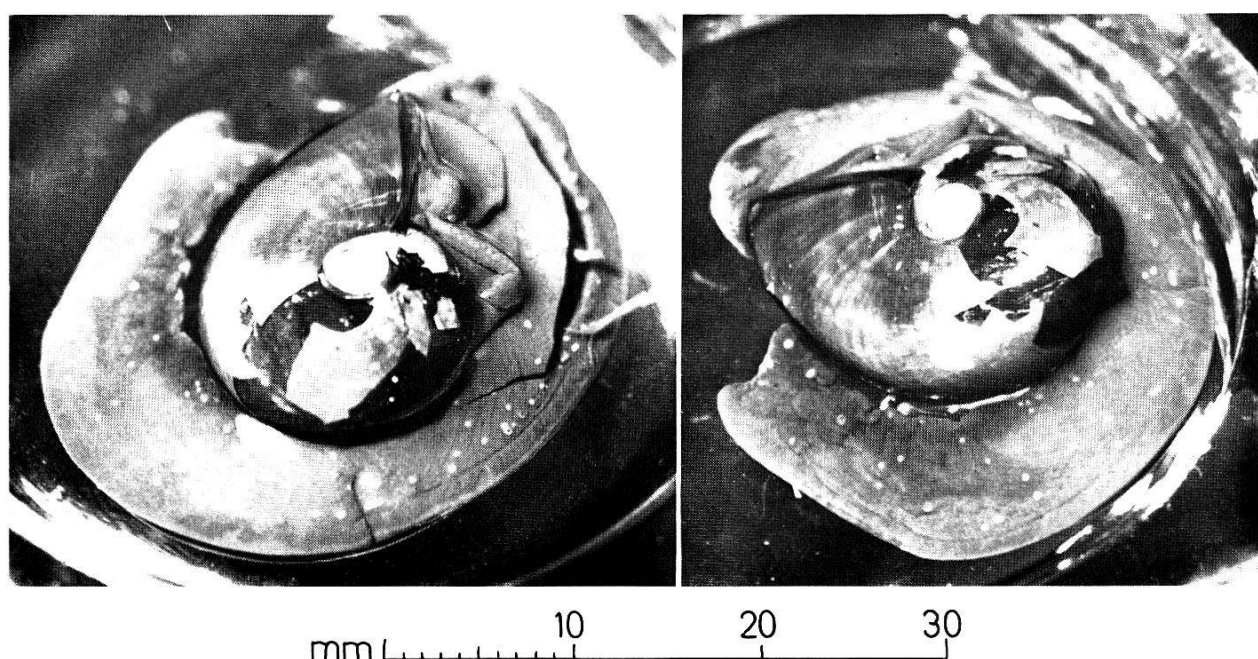


Fig. 1. A *Granularion* sp. (Urocyclidae: Mollusca) with – as distinct intradermal white patches – *Schoengastia* (*Endotrombicula*) sp. (Trombiculidae: Acarina); collected in Sierra Leone (Mt. Loma), Africa, 1964.

America. A group of Ereyetidae parasitize the lungs of terrestrial gastropods, like *Helix pomatia* and various slugs, in Europe, America and Australia (genus *Riccardoella*). Finally, only one Halacaridae (*Halixodes chitonis*) really lives at the expense of its host, a polyplacophore, or chiton, from New Zealand. Restriction of parasitism to vertebrates was regarded as characteristic of the Trombiculidae until a few species were discovered parasitizing arthropods.

Several specimens of a terrestrial snail, *Granularion* n. sp. (Urocyclidae) collected in 1964 from Mont Loma, Sierra Leone, by an expedition of the "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (I. F. A. N.)" have now been found freely parasitized by an intradermal mite, *Schoengastia* (*Endotrombicula*) sp. (see photograph). A description is in preparation.

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