

A new finding of *Teinocheylus gundii* Fain et al., 1982 (Acari: Cheyletidae) from a ctenodactylid rodent (Rodentia: Ctenodactylidae)

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The parasitic mite, *Teinocheylus gundii* Fain et al., 1982 is recorded from *Massoutiera mzabi* (Rodentia: Ctenodactylidae) in Morocco (Mecnes Zoo) for the first time.

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Mites of the genus *Teinocheylus* Fain, 1974 are highly specialized parasites of ctenodactylid rodents (Rodentia: Ctenodactylidae) (Bochkov & Fain, 2001). This rodent family comprises four recent genera, *Ctenodactylus* Gray, 1830, *Felovia* Lataste, 1886, *Massoutiera* Lataste, 1885, and *Pectinator* Blyth, 1856, all of them monotypic, except for *Ctenodactylus* with two species (Wilson & Reeder, 1993).

Teinocheylus species are known from all recent ctenodactylids. Of the two described species of this mite genus, *T. longissimus* Fain, 1974 parasitizes *Pectinator spekei* Blyth, 1856 in Somaliland (Fain, 1974), and *T. gundii* Fain et al., 1982 parasitizes *Ctenodactylus gundi* (Rothmann, 1776) in Tunisia and *C. vali* Thomas, 1902 in Algeria (Fain et al., 1982). In addition, nymphs, exuvies, and eggs of *Teinocheylus* sp. were collected from *Massoutiera mzabi* (Lataste, 1881) in Algeria and *Felovia vae* Lataste, 1886 in Mauritania (Fain et al., 1982). As shown in this paper, the mite species parasitizing *M. mzabi* is *T. gundii*, but an additional material from *F. vae* is still necessary to determine the *Teinocheylus* species infesting this host.

Teinocheylus gundii Fain, Gerrits & Lukoschus, 1982

Material examined. Morocco: 2 ♀, 2 ♂, 2 teleonymphs, Zoo of Mecnes, from *Massoutiera mzabi*, 1936 (field number RMT-2/20), JBK, in Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA (FMNH).

Note. Different species of parasitic cheyletids belonging to one genus usually do not infest the same species of vertebrate host (Bochkov & Fain, 2001); the few records being exceptions of this rule are probably due to incorrect identification or occasional contamination. The present finding suggests that specimens of *Teinocheylus* sp. reported by Fain et al. (1982) from *M. mzabi* belonged actually to *T. gundii* as well.

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