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**Description of a new species of *Aculops* KEIFER  
(Arachn., Acar.) noxious on Plumtrees in  
Switzerland**

by

H. H. KEIFER and B. DELLEY

In the course of research carried out by the second author on the leaf vagrant Eriophyids in plum orchards of the Canton of Neuchâtel, material was sent to the first author for identification. Four species were found. One of them is new and below we give the description.

***Aculops berochensis* n. sp.**

The principal characteristics of this new species are the acute anterior shield lobe that ends in a sharp point over the rostrum; a moderately strong shield design with some granules on the stronger lines, and with lines of granules, especially laterally. The abdomen is strongly microtuberculate, with elongate microtubercles on the tergites. There is probably a deutogyne in this species but it has not been available for study. The new species occurs in company with *Aculus fockeui* (Nal.) on the undersurface of domestic plum leaves. *Aculus fockeui* does not have as strong a shield design as the new species, but it does have a pair of small spinules projecting forward from just under the front rounded margin of the anterior shield lobe. This is different from the single acute spine of the new species.

Description: female (protogyne) with rather robust-fusiform body, 210  $\mu$ –225  $\mu$  long, about 60  $\mu$  thick. Rostrum 26  $\mu$  long, projecting down; antapical rostral seta 8  $\mu$  long. Shield 46  $\mu$  long by 48  $\mu$  wide, subtriangular with sides somewhat rounded out. Anterior shield lobe acute, ending in a sharp spine. Shield design of lines with granules and with lines of granules, especially laterally. Median shield line indicated by central line of granules on rear  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Admedian lines complete, but curving and bearing some granules, especially to rear; these lines curving back from sides of anterior lobe, meeting cross line (front line of cells) at base of lobe; forming outer line of central cell back to just before  $\frac{1}{2}$ , then curving inward to about  $\frac{2}{3}$ , and arching out and

back to rear shield margin; rear end of admedian line giving off diagonally outward-anterior line which ends in front of dorsal tubercle. Three prominent cells across at base of anterior lobe, with front line giving off obscure lateral line and from rear outward side of lateral

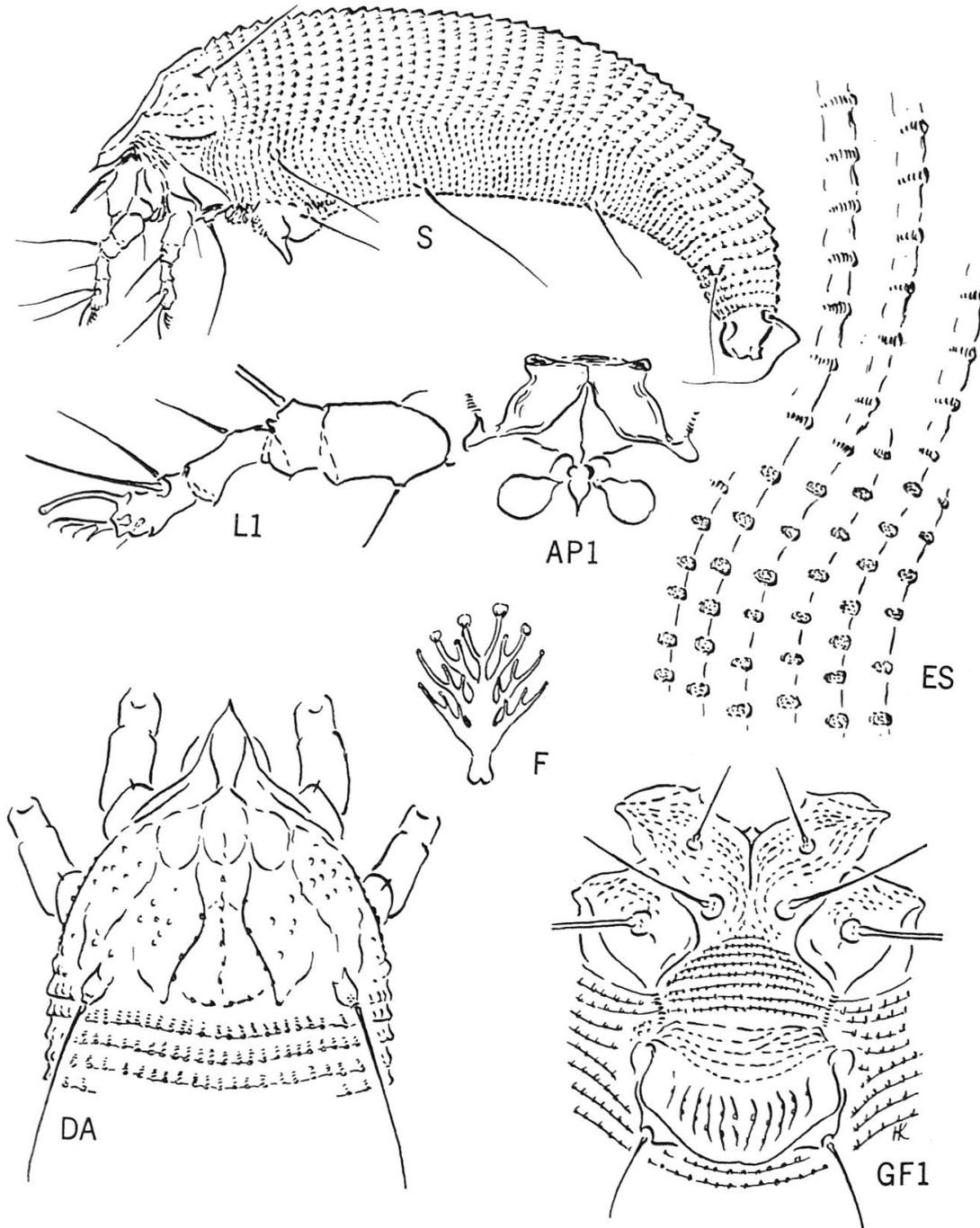


Fig. 1. — *Aculopus berochensis* new species. S, Side view of female, L 1, Anterior left leg, AP 1, Internal female genital structures, ES, Lateral rings and microtubercules, F, Featherclaw, DA, Dorsal view of anterior section of mite (shield), GF 1, Coxae and female genitalia.

cell a line extending diagonally back to end in front of dorsal tubercle. Shield laterally with lines of granules. Dorsal tubercles  $31\ \mu$  apart; dorsal setae  $25\ \mu$  long, projecting diagonally outwards to rear. Foreleg  $35\ \mu$  long; tibia  $8\ \mu$  long, with  $6\ \mu$  seta at  $1/3$ ; tarsus  $8\ \mu$  long; claw  $7\ \mu$  long, apically knobbed; featherclaw 4-rayed. Hindleg  $34\ \mu$  long, tibia  $7\ \mu$  long, tarsus  $7\ \mu$  long, claw  $8\ \mu$  long. Coxae ornamented with fine lines and granules; sternal line of moderate length, not reaching second tubercles; first setiferous tubercles farther apart than second tubercles and a little farther back than anterior end of sternal line; second coxal tubercles but slightly ahead of third tubercles. Thanosome with about 40 tergites and 72 sternites. Tergites with elongate microtubercles which reach margins. Sternites with elliptical microtubercles which touch margins. Lateral thanosomal seta  $36\ \mu$  long, on about sternite 8; first ventral seta  $40\ \mu$  long, on sternite 27; second ventral  $22\ \mu$  long, on sternite 52. Telosome with rather wide rings, completely set with microtubercles which are fine and pointed over margins. Telosomal seta  $34\ \mu$  long. Accessory seta  $4\ \mu$  long. Female genitalia  $23\ \mu$  wide,  $14\ \mu$  long; coverflap with 10–12 longitudinal ribs, these ribs more or less with granules. Genital seta  $20\ \mu$  long.

Male  $170\ \mu$ – $185\ \mu$  long, with about same ornamentation as female.

Type locality: Bevaix/Cortailod, La Béroche (Canton of Neuchâtel), Switzerland.

Collected: July 1969, by B. Delley.

Host: *Prunus domestica* L., plum.

Relation to host: the mites are leaf vagrants on the undersurface of leaves.

Type slide and one paratype slide in the collections of the Department of Entomology of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (Switzerland). Four paratype slides in the collection H. H. Keifer.

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