

# ARMY ANT MITES

## *The Most Specialized Mites Found On Any Social Insect*

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*Circocylliba crinita* has been found only on the inner curve of the jaws of *Eciton dulcium*.



*Pinoglyphus*, in the new family Pinoglyphidae, has been found only on the eye of a worker of *Eciton burckellii*.



*Macrocheles rettenmeyer* has been found only between the tarsal claws of the hind legs of *Eciton dulcium* workers.

Examination of samples of army ants (Ecitoninae) from 1600 colonies has yielded 45,000 mites. About 3% have been studied resulting in the description of 3 new families and 147 new species. Only one previously described species was found. These mites are highly restricted to *host, part of the ant's body, and even the place* on that body part where they ride or attach.

A few species are known ectoparasites but most seem to be phoretic. No life cycle is known for any species of these mites. Any systematic acarologist interested in a short or a life-time project should contact Carl W. Rettenmeyer at [crett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crett@sbcglobal.net)



One mite, *Larvaminima* in the new family Larvaminimidae, is in the center among group of ant larvae.



*Trichocylliba* looks like a smaller *Circocylliba* and is found on the small army ant, *Labidus praedator*.



*Planodiscus* has been found only on the under surface of middle and hind tibiae of workers.



*Antennequesoma longissima* was only on the outer surface of the hind tibia of workers of *Nelivamyrmex sumicrasti*.



*Coxequesoma* is known only from coxae of workers of *Eciton* and *Labidus*.



*Habeogula couda* is known only from workers of *Labidus praedator*. The mite rides under the hind with two posterior extensions gripping between its tarsi.



*Trichocylliba galea* is known only from *Labidus praedator*; its shape suggests it is phoretic on a leg or antenna.



The ectoparasitic *Rettenmeyeriulus carli* (Ascidae) is found only at the base of mandibles of worker ants.