

## On the new genus *Ceratoacacus* Ewing (Acarina).

By

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When reading the description of this new genus published by EWING in »Journal of entomology and zoology», vol. 5. n:o 3, 1913 one gets the impression that the American acaridologists must have great difficulty in getting access even to widely spread European literature on mites.

Any specialist on the group in Europe, who is even moderately familiar with the literature, will at once perceive, that the »new» genus is nothing else than a *Labidostoma*, wherefore it is quite inappropriate to place it in the *Cæculidæ*.

The genus *Labidostoma* was created by P. KRAMER in 1879 (Arch. f. Naturg. 45 årg. 1 Bd, p. 13—16, fig. 1 a—i, tavl. II); the following year A. D. MICHAEL in England found it and gave an excellent description of it accompanied by a plate, containing beautiful drawings both of the adult and the nymph (Journ. Quekett Micr. Club, vol. 6, n:o 44, 1880 p. 107—113, pl. 6).

Shortly afterwards G. and R. CANESTRINI<sup>1</sup> proved that the genus was identical with the genus *Nicoletia* which name was changed by them in *Nicolettiella*, since the former was preoccupied in another group, the *Thysanura*. This latter name is, however, not valid, but the genus has to be called *Labidostoma*.

<sup>1</sup> Atti di R. Istituto Veneto di Scienze etc. Ser. 5, 1881—1882 p. 917 pl. 10).

Subsequently, OUDEMANS (Tijdschr. voor Entomologie, Bd. 46, p. 132—134) proved that already in 1776 SCHRANK (Beitr. zur Naturgeschichte, p. 125, pl. 6, fig. 8) had described a species, belonging to this genus, and about the same time the author (Zool. Anz. Bd 28, n:o 18, 1904, p. 565—567, figs. 1—4) tried to prove that *Labidostoma cornuta* CAN. & FANZ. had been described by KOCH under the name of *Raphignathus ruber* (Deutschlands Crustacéen, Myriapoden und Arachniden. fasc. 20, pl. 20).

Consequently there exists a literature on the genus, published in German, Italian and English and the more surprising it is to learn that none of these papers is known in U. S. A.

*Labidostoma* is a very isolated genus and its systematic position and its affinities have not yet been ascertained.

The brothers CANESTRINI placed it at first amongst the *Gamasidæ* (*Parasitidæ*), subsequently amongst the *Oribatidæ* and it is now raised to the rank of a family.

It is, however, very interesting to learn that the *Labidostomidæ* are represented also in North America. Up to the present time the family has only been recorded from Europe, but the author has found a species, not yet described, not uncommonly in South-Africa.

It is therefore evident, that the family has a very wide distribution.