

A new species of *Albia* (*Albiella*) from The Netherlands (Acari: Hydrachnellae)

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Abstract: *Albia* (*Albiella*) *davidsi* spec. nov. is described from The Netherlands. It is the first record of the subgenus *Albiella* from Europe.

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Introduction

From the genus *Albia* only one species is known from Europe, i.e. *A. stationis* Thon, placed in the subgenus *Albia*. In a pond near Amsterdam the second of us collected a new species. A description is given below. The nomenclature is according to Cook (1974).

Albia (*Albiella*) *davidsi* spec. nov. (figs. 1-5)

Type Material. – Holotype: Female from pond Gaasperpark, in south-eastern Amsterdam (Amersfoort-coordinates: 128.28/480.12), 22-vii-1991. The holotype is deposited in the Institute of Taxonomic Zoology (Zoological Museum) of the University of Amsterdam.

Description

Female: Body 1086 μ in length and 815 μ in width. Dorsal and ventral shield present. Dorsal shield with 5 pairs of glandularia; no conspicuous colour pattern present. Two peripherally located glandularia are lying close to each other. One pair of glandularia in the dorsal furrow. Hairs on the dorsal shield on small tubercles. Suture line between third and fourth coxa complete. Glandulum of the fourth coxa located near the suture line of third and fourth coxa and extended onto this suture line. Tips of coxae pointed; setae on coxae not thickened. Acetabular plate 136 μ in length and 126 μ in width. Dorsal lengths of palp segments: PI

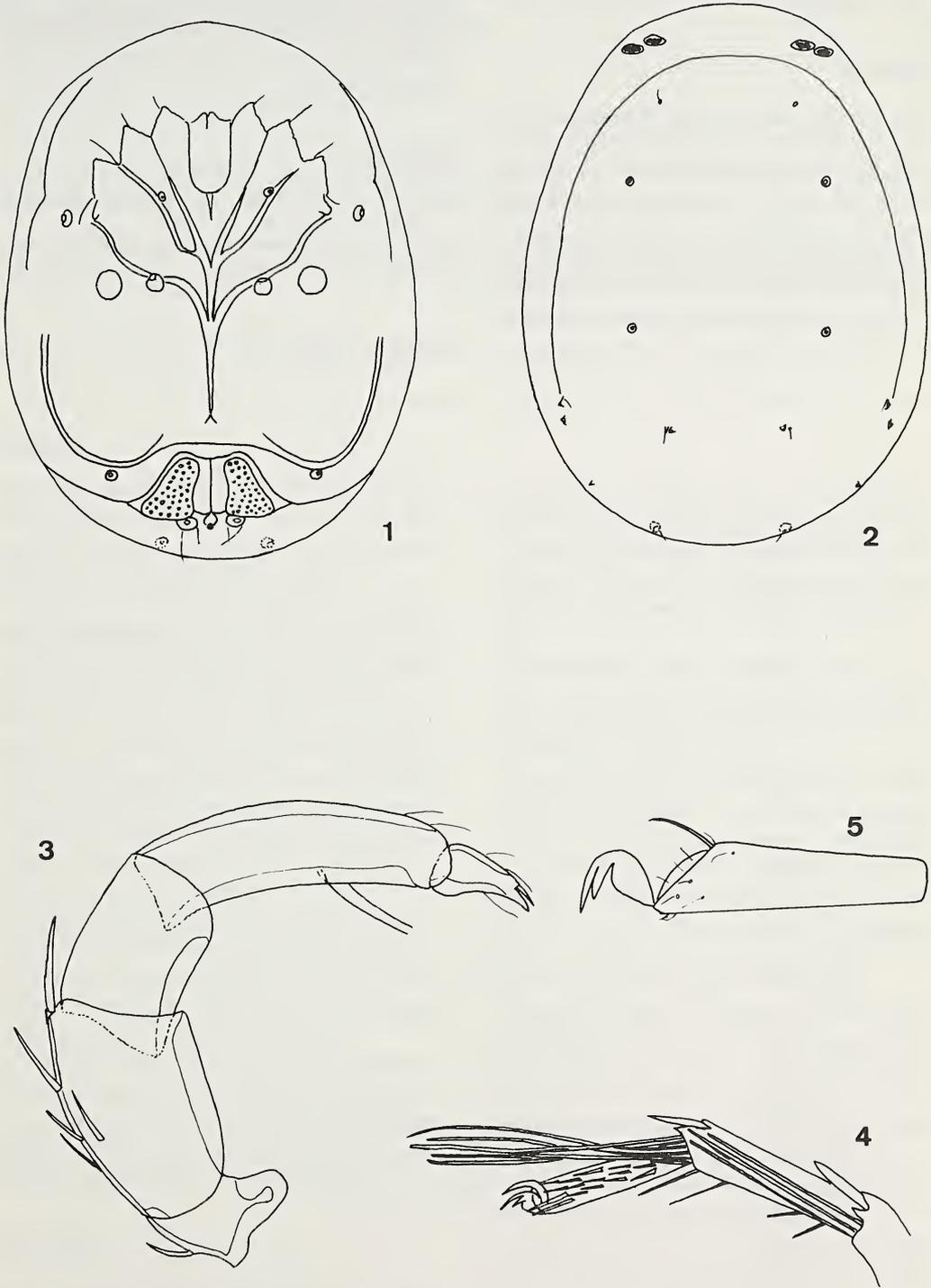
50 μ , PII 120 μ , PIII 91 μ , PIV 156 μ , PV 48 μ . PIV with two setae on ventral margin and 3 setae on dorsal margin. Legs with large claw and clawlet. Dorsal lengths of three distal segments of first and fourth leg: I-leg-4 115 μ , I-leg-5 132 μ , I-leg-6 144 μ ; IV-leg-4 197 μ , IV-leg-5 216 μ , IV-leg-6 165 μ . II-leg-5 with 4 swimming setae, III-leg-4 with 4 and III-leg-5 with approximately 9 swimming setae, IV-leg-4 with 3 and IV-leg-5 with 8 swimming setae. IV-leg-6 with approximately 16 setae on lateral side.

Male: unknown.

Diagnosis

The large glandulum located very close to the suture line of the third and fourth coxa (and extending onto this suture line), the pointed tips of the coxae, the long fourth palp segment and the two peripherally located glandularia of the dorsal shield, lying close to each other, are diagnostic for *A. davidsi*. Many species of this subgenus have a conspicuous blue or purple colour pattern, especially the species from Africa, and South and Central America. In the present species such a colour pattern is lacking.

The new species differs from *A. stationis*, the only known European species of the genus, in having a complete suture line between the third and fourth coxa.



Figs. 1-5. *Albia (Albiella) davidsi* spec. nov., ♀. 1, Ventral view; 2, dorsal view; 3, palp; 4, distal segments of fourth leg in lateral view; 5, distal segment of first leg.

Etymology: *A. davidsi* has been named after Dr. C. Davids.

Discussion

Albia davidsi spec. nov. can be assigned to the subgenus *Albiella*. Cook (1986) placed the subgenus *Anchistalbia* in synonymy with *Albiella*. Twentyfour species of the subgenus *Albiella* have been described from North, Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

The type-locality has been examined on water mites monthly during the summer half-year for a period of 5 years. The new species has

been collected only once, in spite of the large number of specimens taken each month. We think *A. davidsi* is an accidental species in The Netherlands, with its main distribution area lying elsewhere.

References

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