

## A NEW PARASITE RECORD FOR OPILIONES (ARACHNIDA)

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A parasitized juvenile harvestman (*Opilio* species) was collected by the authors in a pitfall trap in an east-central Illinois deciduous forest between May 7-21, 1966, and a parasitic worm of the nematode family Mermithidae was observed protruding through the body wall of the opisthosoma (fig. 1). Re-



FIGURE 1. Lateral aspect of *Opilio* species showing parasites protruding from body.

moval of the opisthosoma and most of the prosoma revealed two juvenile specimens of a *Hexameris* species which almost completely filled the harvestman's body (fig. 2).

Mermithidae are generally parasitic in arthropods as juveniles. The juveniles usually leave the host before they mature and are free living as adults. Records of these parasites from Opiliones are rare in the literature. Until now only the genus *Mermus* (Kästner, 1928) has been recorded from harvestman. Spiders are the only other arachnids reported in the literature as being parasitized by *Hexameris*. Kaston (1945) has recorded *Hexameris* from the spider family Thomisidae, and Leech (1966) has recorded the genus from the families Thomisidae and Lycosidae.

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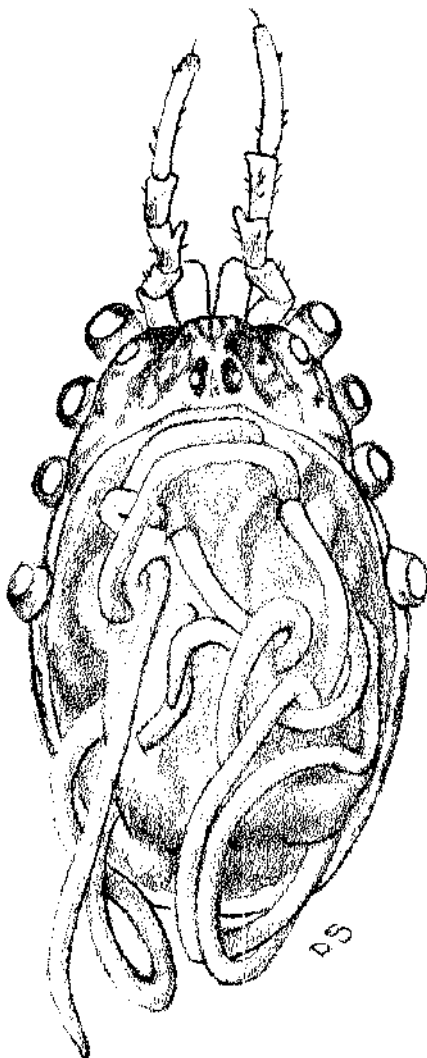


FIGURE 2. Dorsal aspect of same with most of prosoma and opisthosoma removed.

## LITERATURE CITED

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