MINISTRY OF FINANCE, EGYPT

Coastguards and Fisheries Service

FISHERIES RESEARCH DIRECTORATE

NOTES AND MEMOIRS No. 11

THE FISHERY GROUNDS NEAR ALEXANDRIA

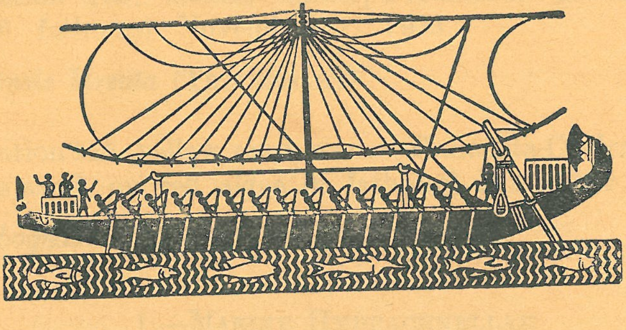
IV.—SOME MARINE MITES FROM ALEXANDRIA

(with 5 Figures and 1 Chart)

BY

Dr. KARL VIETS

Bremen



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MINISTRY OF FINANCE, EGYPT

The Fishery Grounds near Alexandria

IV.—Some Marine Mites from Alexandria

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Dr. KARL VIETS

The Director Prof. Dr. Ad. STEUER of Rovigno d'Istria (Italy) kindly handed me some marine mites, collected from Egyptian littoral waters near Alexandria. As no marine mites hitherto have been recorded from the Egyptian part of the Mediterranean, the four species found by Prof. STEUER are the first ones known from the seashore of this part of Africa.

The localities selected for examination are (Fig. 6):

(1) Sidi Bishr, on algae from the shore; August 9, 1933.

Litarachna communis WALTER.

(2) Station 78, grey sand, Caulerpa ground (4 fathoms) November 5, 1933.

Halacarus s. str. *aegyptus* n. sp.

(3) Station 102, stones, Caulerpa-Halimeda ground on Cystosira (5–6 fathoms) November 7, 1933.

Agauopsis hirsuta (TROUESSART).

(4) Station 125, yellow sand, stones, Halimeda-Caulerpa ground; Amphioxus sand, on red algae (6 fathoms) November 13, 1933.

Rhombognathus magnirostris (TROUESSART).

1.—MARINE HYDRACHNELLAE

(1) *Litarachna communis* WALTER, 1925.

Distribution: This species has been only found till now in the Mediterranean off the French and Italian (Adriatic) coasts.

II.—MARINE HALACARIDAE

(2) *Rhombognathus magnirostris* (TROUESSART), 1889.

Distribution: Known from the Atlantic Ocean (North Sea, Bergen, French coast, Channel) and from the Mediterranean (French coasts, Black Sea).

(3) *Agauopsis hirsuta* (TROUESSART), 1889.

Distribution: Mediterranean (French coast) and Indian Ocean (Coast of S.E. Australia).

(4) *Halacarus* (*Halacarus s. str.*) *aegyptus n. sp.* (Fig. 1–5). Body (? female) long and slender; total length 460 μ, breadth 240 μ. Dorsal plates weakly chitinized, surface not areolated. The predorsal plate 150 μ long., 83 μ broad, long and slender, acutely projected in front, with conical process behind, with two small hairs near the middle and two glandular openings at the middle of the lateral margins. Eye-plates oblong, rounded, 50 μ long, 30 μ broad, each with thickened chitin at the frontal margin functioning as lenses and with a "porus"-like chitinous ring behind. Post-dorsal plate 112 μ long and 79 μ broad, the anterior end produced into a tongue-shaped conical process, posterior margin with two conical papillæ. In the dorsal skin besides the anterior end of the post-dorsal plate two small chitinous plates, each with hair and porus.

Skin thin, very delicate striated, with some pairs of hairs and small chitinous points for muscle attachment.

Capitulum: Length 128 μ (including the rostrum). Rostrum 75 μ long, slender, its apex reaching to the distal end of P. III.

Palpi: Dorsal length of	P. I,	P. II,	P. III,	P. IV.
	12	70	8	37 μ.

P. II. with 2 hairs, one somewhat distal of the middle of the dorsal margin; the other almost at the top of this margin. P. III. armed with a blunt inner spine.

Epimera: Situated in 3 groups, weakly chitinized, not areolated. Epimera of the I. and II. legs forming one plate, occupying nearly one third of the ventral surface; median length 91 μ, breadth between the lateral tops of the second epimerae 198 μ.; the middle of the hinder margin straight.

Legs: Dorsal length of the segments:

I.—Leg,	sgm.	(1)58	(2)25	(3)116	(4)108	(5)93	(6)50μ	without claws
II.— ,,	,,	—	—	75	70	70	58	
III.— ,,	,,	—	—	66	66	87	70	
IV.— ,,	,,	—	—	83	75	91	ca70	

The I. legs, 3rd. segm. ventrally with 2 strong, but acute pointed spines, the I. 4th also with two spines, the I. 5th with 4 spines, the I. 6th segm. with 2 smaller spines. The II. legs 4th segm. on the flexor surface with 1 spine. The II. legs 5th segm. with two acute and 1 feathered spines. The I. and II. legs with thin hairs at and near the dorsal margin of the segments. The III. and IV. legs without spines, only with thin hairs. Claws large, with the distal end sickle-shaped and with a very small accessory claw. The claws of the I. and IV. legs are not, the claws of the II. and III. legs are tender pectinated. Middle claws small and hook-like.

Genital area elliptical, 51 μ long, 29 μ broad. Each vulva with 2 hairs; 3 pairs " innere Genitalnäpfe " or " Genitalhilfs-drüsen " being transparent. Genital plate 124 μ long, 99 μ broad, composed of two stronger chitinized reniform plates surrounding the genital area, opening in its front, and a weaker chitinized frontal process with two hairs.

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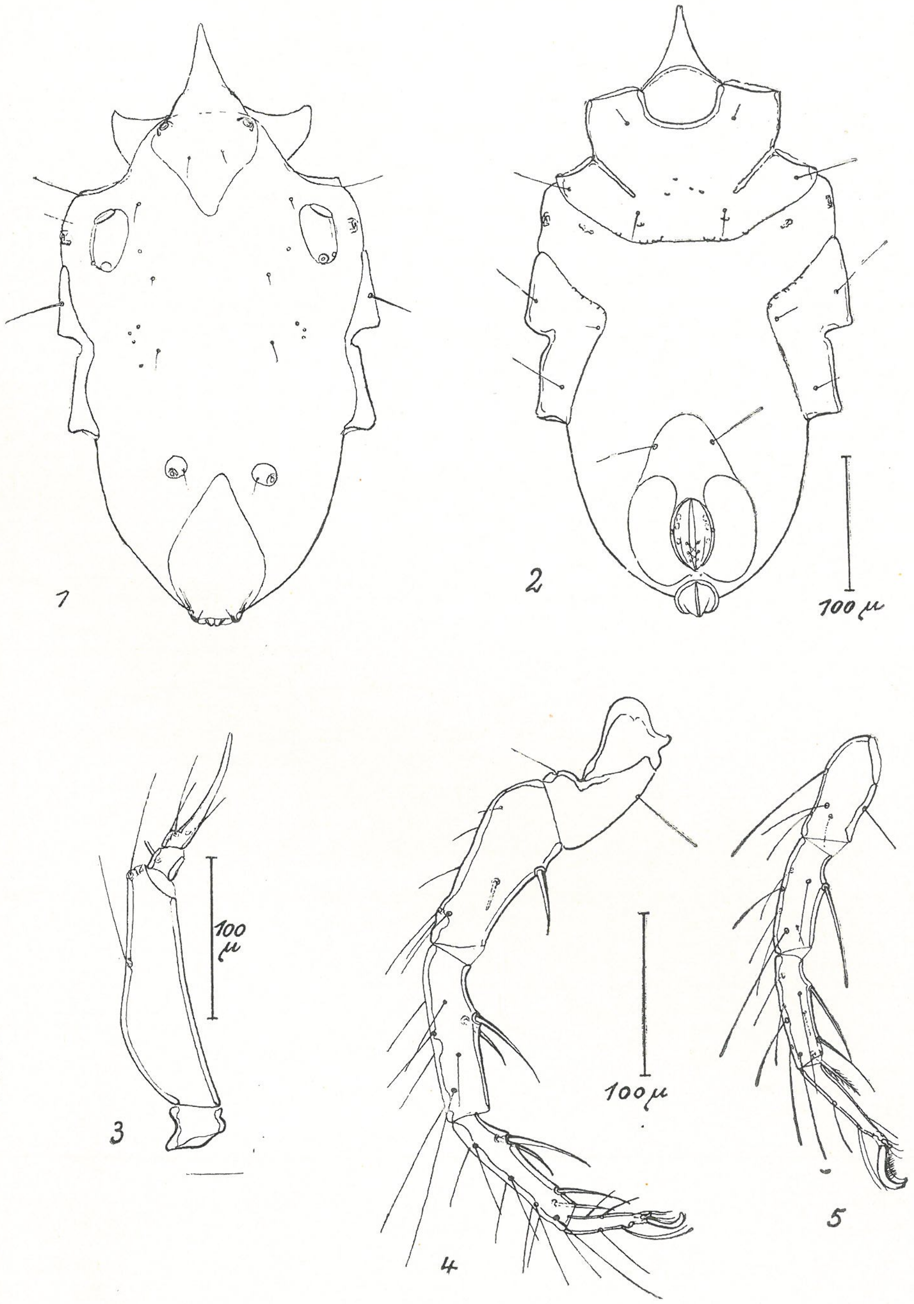

Explanation of Figures.—*Halacarus aegyptus* n. sp.

1.—Dorsal surface. 2.—Ventral surface. 3.—Left palpus.

4.—I. Leg, all segments. 5.—II. Leg, seg. 3–6.

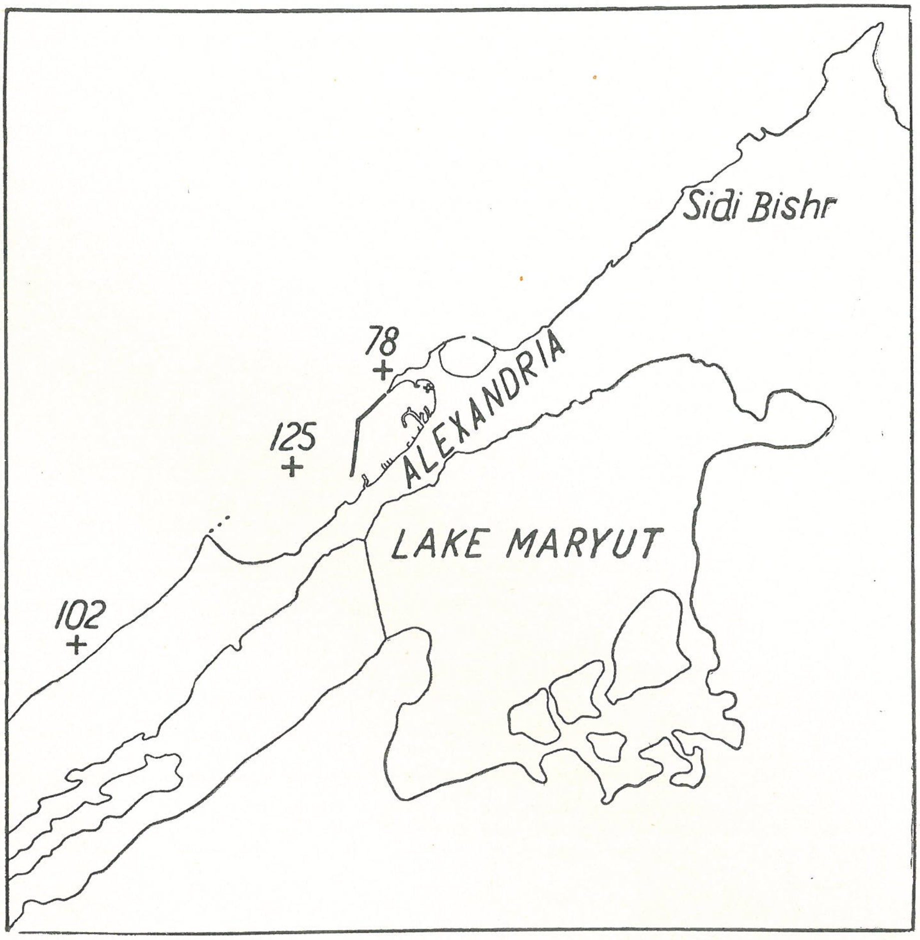

Chart of Alexandria with Stations.