

# Integrated Bayesian species delimitation and morphological diagnostics of chorioptic mange mites (Acariformes: Psoroptidae: *Chorioptes*)

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**Abstract** The external morphology of adult and immature stages of mange mites of the genus *Chorioptes* was investigated with the aid of light and scanning electron microscopy. A molecular phylogeny of this genus was inferred based on six genes (18S, 28S rDNA, EF1- $\alpha$ , SRP54, HSP70, and CO1). The validity of four species (*Ch. bovis*, *Ch. panda*, *Ch. texanus*, and *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov. described from the moose from Sweden, Finland, and Russia) was confirmed based on morphology and a Bayesian species delimitation analysis incorporating both gene tree uncertainties and incomplete lineage sorting via the coalescent process model in BPP. Sequence data for *Ch. crewei* and *Ch. mydaus* was not available but their morphology strongly suggests their validity. The six valid *Chorioptes* species are diagnosed using type and non-type specimens, and a key to species is provided. *Ch. sweatmani* differs from closely related *Ch. texanus* by the following features: in males, the body length, including the

gnathosoma, is 380–405  $\mu\text{m}$  (vs. 220–295 in *Ch. texanus*), the idiosoma is 3–4 times longer than setae *cp* (vs. 1.3–1.6 times longer), legs III are approximately three times longer than setae *sRIII* (vs. 1.8–2 times longer), the apical spur of tarsus III is curved (vs. straight), a spur near seta *fIII* base is not developed (vs. small but distinct); in females, setae *h2* are 1.4–1.5 times shorter than legs IV (vs. about two times longer). Hosts and distribution records of *Chorioptes* species are summarized.

**Keywords** Acari · Artiodactyla · Bayesian species delimitation analysis · *Chorioptes* · Mange mites · Perissodactyla · Psoroptidae · Systematics

## Introduction

The mange mites of the genus *Chorioptes* (Acariformes: Psoroptidae) are permanent, highly specialized ectoparasites of various domesticated and wild artiodactyls, horses, and carnivores (ursids and badgers) (Bochkov 2010). These mites are of substantial veterinary importance causing severe economic losses (Mullen and O'Connor 2002) including decline of milk production and quality in cattle (Rehbein et al. 2005; Nong et al. 2014).

Sweatman (1957) revised species of *Chorioptes* and summarized the large body of known morphological and biological data. In his experiments on rearing and cross-host infestation (either directly on hosts or on their epidermal debris), he convincingly demonstrated that most of the previously known “species” of *Chorioptes* described from different hosts are actually not host-specific and belong to the same species, *Ch. bovis* (von Hering, 1845). He also recognized *Ch. texanus* Hirst, 1924 based on morphology, and listed several taxa of previous authors as incertae sedis.

Andre V. Bochkov and Pavel B. Klimov have equal contribution.

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The latest classical taxonomic treatment (Fain and Leclerc 1975) cites five *Chorioptes* species: *Ch. bovis* and *Ch. texanus* from various artiodactyls and the horse, *Ch. crewei* Lavoipierre, 1958 from a duiker in Cameroon, *Ch. panda* Fain and Leclerc, 1975 from several ursids, and *Ch. mydaus* Fain, 1975 from the Sunda stink badger. However, species delimitation in *Chorioptes* is complicated because of high variability of the “standard” diagnostic characters—mainly the length of the male opisthosomal setae. Zahler et al. (2001) attempted to revise this genus based on morphological and molecular data and concluded that there are only two valid species, *Ch. bovis* and *Ch. texanus*, whereas, *Ch. crewei*, *Ch. mydaus*, and *Ch. panda* were considered as probably invalid. Unfortunately, these authors neither reexamined the type series of *Ch. panda* and *Ch. mydaus* nor included sequences from these mites in their analyses. Later, the validity of *Ch. panda* was confirmed with molecular data only (Wang et al. 2012). Specimens of *Ch. crewei* and *Ch. mydaus* suitable for DNA work are still unavailable and these species are considered by some authors as questionable (Zahler et al. 2001; Hestvik et al. 2007; Suh et al. 2008). Furthermore, specimens of a putative undescribed species of *Chorioptes* were reported recently from the moose (Hestvik et al. 2007). Molecular (ITS-2 gene fragment) and morphometric analyses both indicated a specific status of these mites, but no formal description was made (Hestvik et al. 2007; Lusat et al. 2011). As a result, the systematics of the genus *Chorioptes* is unsettled, with the veterinary important species; *Ch. texanus* is being not clearly diagnosable due to a large number of taxa with uncertain taxonomic status.

Here, we conduct an extensive morphological analysis of *Chorioptes* mites; identify a novel set of diagnostic characters and use them in a new, updated key; and describe all postembryonic stages using both light and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). A new species, *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov. is described from the outer ear canal of the moose in Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Our morphological study is accompanied by a phylogenetic analysis using a large set of psoroptids and outgroups (39 taxa, 6 genes) and a species delimitation analysis that accounts for both gene tree uncertainties and incomplete lineage sorting via the coalescent process model in the program BPP. In addition, host-parasite relationships of *Chorioptes* spp. are analyzed and all known host records are reported.

## Material and methods

**Collections** Mites were collected in 75 % ethanol and mounted in Hoyer’s medium. Methods of mite collection from the ears of *Alces alces* were described previously (Hestvik et al. 2007).

**Material sources** Slide-mounted mite specimens (including type series) from the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles

de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium (IRSNB) and the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia (ZISP) were examined. Additional specimens of *Ch. bovis* and *Ch. texanus* from cattle from Iceland, South Korea, and the USA were donated by colleagues and mounted by us. Specimens of *Ch. sweatmani* were obtained, with appropriate permits, from moose ears in Sweden and Russia collected by GH and APS from dead or freshly killed animals. Three specimens from Finland are deposited in the collection of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium.

**Taxon sampling** DNA isolation and sequencing six genes (18S, 28S rDNA, EF1- $\alpha$ , SRP54, HSP70, and CO1) were sequenced. DNA extraction, rDNA secondary structure alignment, oligonucleotide primers, amplification, and sequencing of the first five genes were previously described (Klimov and O’Connor 2008; Klimov and O’Connor 2013; Knowles and Klimov 2011). Primers and protocols for amplification of CO1 are given in supplement 1. A total of 57 sequences were deposited in Genbank (KF891886-KF891942); species listing and GenBank accession numbers are given in Table 1. For several GenBank CO1 sequences, we trimmed low quality 3’ ends and corrected frameshifting errors. Our alignment matrix has a total of 10,838 nt (aligned) and 39 taxa.

**Phylogenetic analyses** Models of nucleotide substitution and partition strategies were selected based on AICc in PartitionFinder ver. 1.1.1 (Lanfear et al. 2012). We explored two partition strategies (by genes and by rDNA stem and loop regions and the four coding genes) and found the following “best” partition set: rDNA stem, rDNA loop, EF1- $\alpha$ , SRP54+HSP70, and CO1. We used stem and loop regions of rDNA as separate partitions because they have very different levels of saturation (Klimov and O’Connor 2008) and, therefore, may provide insights on phylogenetic signal present in the dataset. This partitioning scheme was used for RAxML and MrBayes analyses (see below), but for \*BEAST we treated SRP54 and HSP70 as separate partitions since this program infers species tree based on gene trees. For all partitions but one, the general time reversible with proportion of invariable sites and gamma-distributed rate heterogeneity model (GTR+I+G) was used. For rDNA loop, the model TIM+I+G was evaluated to be the best fit, but since none of the phylogenetic programs we use here explicitly implemented this model, the nearest available model (GTR+I+G) was set for this partition.

Phylogenetic relationships were inferred in maximum likelihood and Bayesian frameworks in RAxML-HPC ver. 7.5.4 (Stamatakis et al. 2005) and MrBayes 3.2.2 (Ronquist et al. 2012) using a 52-node Mac OS X computer cluster. Four independent runs were performed for each program.

In the RAxML analyses, the model optimization precision for the final optimization of the tree topology (“-e”) under

**Table 1** Taxa, collection data, and GenBank ids

id	Species	Family	Host, Country	18S	28S	EF1a	SRP54	HSP70	COI
707	<i>Laromyxus marinus</i>	Avenzoariidae	<i>Larus cachinnans mongolicus</i> , Russia	KF891886	KF891894	KF891900	KF891906	KF891912	KF891918
1135	<i>Mouchetia</i> sp. nr. <i>indochinensis</i>	Pteronyssidae	<i>Zosterops erythropleurus</i> , Russia	JQ000175	JQ000483	JQ000786	JQ001088	JQ001403	KF891919
675	<i>Scutulanyssus subis</i>	Pteronyssidae	<i>Progne subis</i> , USA	JQ000185	JQ000493	JQ000796	JQ001098	JQ001413	KF891920
716	<i>Pandaltura oconnori</i>	Psoroptoidea	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i> , Peru	KF891887	KF891895	KF891901	KF891907	KF891913	KF891921
749	<i>Pandaltura strigiosi</i>	Psoroptoidea	<i>Asio otus</i> , Russia	KF891888	KF891896	KF891902	KF891908	KF891914	KF891922
1197	<i>Pandaltura</i> sp.	Psoroptoidea	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i> , Mexico	KF891889	KF891897	KF891903	KF891909	KF891915	KF891923
903	<i>Tennalges</i> sp.	Psoroptoidea	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , USA	JQ000219	JQ000527	JQ000829	JQ001132	JQ001447	KF891924
1028	<i>Hymesalges</i> sp.	Psoroptoidea	<i>Tockus pallidirostris</i> , Malawi	JQ000220	JQ000528	JQ000830	JQ001133	JQ001448	KF891925
757	<i>Picalgoides picimajoris</i>	Psoroptoidea	<i>Dendrocopos major</i> , Russia	JQ000222	JQ000530	JQ000832	JQ001135	JQ001450	KF891926
582	<i>Picalgoides</i> sp. n.	Psoroptoidea	<i>Colaptes auratus</i> , USA	JQ000223	JQ000531	JQ000833	JQ001136	JQ001451	KF891927
1152	<i>Picalgoides</i> aff. <i>pteroglossorum</i>	Psoroptoidea	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i> , Mexico	JQ000224	JQ000532	JQ000834	JQ001137	JQ001452	KF891928
773	<i>Mesalgoides</i> sp. n.	Psoroptoidea	<i>Grallaria capitata</i> , Peru	JQ000228	JQ000536	EU152818	JQ001141	JQ001456	KF891929
637	<i>Mesalgoides</i> sp.	Psoroptoidea	<i>Sheppardia bocagei</i> , Tanzania	JQ000229	JQ000537	JQ000838	JQ001142	JQ001457	KF891930
572	<i>Echimytralges guyanensis</i>	Lobaligidae	<i>Proechimys simonsi</i> , Peru	JQ000239	JQ000547	JQ000848	JQ001152	JQ001467	KF891931
1458	<i>Psoralges libertus</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Tamandua</i> sp., USA	KF891890	KF891898	–	–	–	KF891932
466	<i>Otodectes cynotis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Felis catus</i> , USA	JQ000240	JQ000548	JQ000849	JQ001153	JQ001468	KF891933
–	<i>Otodectes cynotis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Felis catus</i> , Poland	GQ864320	–	–	–	–	–
1647	<i>Caparina</i> sp.	Psoroptidae	<i>Aterix albiventris</i> , South Korea	KF891891	–	–	–	–	KF891934
597	<i>Psoroptes ovis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> , USA	JQ000241	JQ000549	JQ000850	JQ001154	JQ001469	BQ835080
–	<i>Psoroptes ovis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Ovis aries</i> , UK	FR748605	–	–	–	–	FR748605
–	<i>Psoroptes ovis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> , China	FJ907505	–	–	–	–	FJ907499
–	<i>Psoroptes natalensis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i> , China	FJ907506	–	–	–	–	GQ221770
–	<i>Chorioptes panda</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Aluropoda melanoleuca</i> , China	FJ907511	–	–	–	–	FJ907504
–	<i>Chorioptes texanus</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Bos taurus</i> , China	FJ907508	–	–	–	–	FJ907501
–	<i>Chorioptes texanus</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Bos taurus</i> , China	FJ907507	–	–	–	–	FJ907500
–	<i>Chorioptes texanus</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Bos taurus</i> , China	FJ907510	–	–	–	–	FJ907503
–	<i>Chorioptes texanus</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Bos taurus</i> , China	FJ907509	–	–	–	–	FJ907502
–	<i>Chorioptes bovis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Bison bonasus</i> , Poland	GQ864308	–	–	–	–	–
1660	<i>Chorioptes bovis</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Ovis aries</i> , Iceland	KF891892	KF891899	KF891904	KF891910	KF891916	KF891935
1664	<i>Chorioptes sweatmani</i>	Psoroptidae	<i>Alces alces</i> , Sweden	KF891893	–	KF891905	KF891911	KF891917	KF891936
843	<i>Gymnolyphus longior</i>	Pyroglyphidae	Russia	JQ000242	JQ000550	JQ000851	JQ001155	JQ001470	KF891937
949	<i>Gymnolyphus osu</i>	Pyroglyphidae	USA	JQ000243	JQ000551	JQ000852	JQ001156	JQ001471	KF891938
1412	<i>Euroglyphus maynei</i>	Pyroglyphidae	USA	JQ000244	JQ000552	JQ000853	JQ001157	JQ001472	–
1111	<i>Hirstia chelidonis</i>	Pyroglyphidae	France	JQ000245	JQ000553	JQ000854	JQ001158	JQ001473	KF891939

**Table 1** (continued)

id	Species	Family	Host, Country	18S	28S	EF1a	SRP54	HSP70	COI
515	<i>Sturnophagoides bakeri</i>	Pyroglyphidae	<i>Progne subis</i> nest, USA	JQ000246	JQ000554	JQ000855	JQ001159	JQ001474	KF891940
521	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i>	Pyroglyphidae	<i>Dermestes maculatus</i> , USA	JQ000247	JQ000555	JQ000856	JQ001160	JQ001475	GQ465336
1210	<i>Dermatophagoides</i> sp. n.	Pyroglyphidae	<i>Hirundo rustica erythrogaster</i> , Mexico	JQ000248	JQ000556	JQ000857	JQ001161	JQ001476	KF891941
1427	<i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i>	Pyroglyphidae	Singapore	JQ000249	JQ000557	JQ000858	JQ001162	JQ001477	–
947	<i>Dermatophagoides evansi</i>	Pyroglyphidae	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> , USA	JQ000250	JQ000558	JQ000859	JQ001163	JQ001478	KF891942

GAMMAI ("-m") was set to 0.001 and a rapid bootstrap analysis (100 pseudoreplicates, "-N") followed by a search for the best-scoring ML tree was performed ("-f a"). This tree then was used to estimate the model parameters and calculate ML distances ("-f x").

For each MrBayes analysis, we conducted two independent runs for 20 million generations each to obtain a total of 80,002 trees discarding the first 50,000 trees as burn-in. No unrealistically long trees (Brown et al. 2010; Marshall 2010) were detected by comparison of the average post-burn in tree lengths reported by Tracer v. 1.5 (Rambaut and Drummond 2009) and the maximum likelihood tree length estimate. Convergence of model parameters and topology were assessed by the standard MrBayes convergence diagnostics (i.e., the average standard deviation of split frequencies values below 0.01 and potential scale reduction factor values approaching 1.00) and the program Are We There Yet? (AWTY) (Nylander et al. 2008). Adequacy of the posterior sample size was evaluated through autocorrelation statistics as implemented in Tracer—all effective sample size values substantially exceeded 200 (e. g., 1086.6–19800.4 for one of the runs).

Trees were visualized in FigTree 1.3.1 (Drummond and Rambaut 2007). Matrices and trees from this study are available from TreeBASE (<http://www.treebase.org>) accession number 15054.

From both theoretical and empirical perspectives, it is widely recognized that a gene tree may be different from the true species tree, especially in cases of closely related species (short branches on the phylogeny) or species with large population sizes (Maddison 1997; Syring et al. 2007). For single-copy genes with no horizontal gene transfer and hybridization, the incongruence is likely to be due to incomplete lineage sorting (Heled and Drummond 2010). To overcome the effect of stochastic sorting of ancestral polymorphisms and to infer accurate phylogenies at the species level, we will use six orthologous loci and the multispecies coalescent model. Unlike concatenation analyses (e. g., in RAxML, MrBayes) where all genes are forced to share the same underlying history, species tree analytical framework models the genealogical process of each gene tree as nested within the species tree while using certain coalescence assumptions (Degnan and Rosenberg 2009). We run a multilocus, species tree analysis (Degnan and Rosenberg 2009) in \*BEAST ver. 1.8.0. This program simultaneously coestimates the species trees and all gene trees, with uncertainty in gene trees incorporated through a traditional MCMC analysis (Heled and Drummond 2010). Two independent analyses were run for 700 million generations each with parameters sampled every 10,000 steps. Runs were combined using the program LogCombiner v.1.4.6 (Drummond and Rambaut 2007) and burn-in samples were discarded (10,000 out of 70,001). Convergence and adequacy of the posterior sample size were determined as above for MrBayes analyses.

**Species delimitation analysis** Published molecular treatments of *Chorioptes* used single gene trees (ITS, 18S, CO1) to infer a phylogeny (Hestvik et al. 2007; Wang et al. 2012). Genetic distances and reciprocal monophyly from these topologies were then used to find boundaries between species with no formal species delimitation analysis. Both these procedures often require subjective decisions regarding the thresholds that demark the species boundary. Recent theoretical developments indicate that inferences relying on single locus or concatenated data cannot deal with incomplete lineage sorting and thus necessarily fail to detect recently diverged lineages (Hudson and Coyne 2002; McVay and Carstens 2013). Here, we conduct species delimitation analysis using the program BPP ver. 2.2 (Rannala and Yang 2003; Yang and Rannala 2010). This method accommodates the species phylogeny as well as lineage sorting due to ancestral polymorphism, and is considered as the most accurate among other recent species delimitation algorithms (Camargo et al. 2012; Satler et al. 2013). A gamma prior  $G(2, 1000)$ , with mean  $2/1000=0.002$ , is used on the population size parameters ( $\theta$ s). The age of the root in the species tree ( $\tau_0$ ) is assigned the gamma prior  $G(2, 1000)$ , while the other divergence time parameters are assigned the Dirichlet prior (Yang and Rannala 2010: equation 2). To evaluate the influence of the ancestral population size ( $\theta$ ) and root age ( $\tau_0$ ) priors on the posterior probabilities of species models, we used two additional combinations of priors (Leache and Fujita 2010):  $\theta \sim G(1, 10)$   $\tau_0 \sim G(1, 10)$  and  $\theta \sim G(1, 10)$   $\tau_0 \sim G(2, 1000)$ . The latter set of priors assumes large values for  $\theta$  and small values for  $\tau_0$ , favoring conservative models containing fewer species (Yang and Rannala 2010). Because the automatic MCMC fine-tune method experienced difficulties in convergence and mixing when using starting trees with all or most of the nodes collapsed, we adjusted fine-tune variables for MCMC moves as described in the BPP manual. For the guide tree, we selected a subtree encompassing the canonical Psoroptidae (15 terminals in the genera *Otodectes*, *Caparinia*, *Psoroptes*, *Chorioptes*; Table 1, Fig. 1). This subtree was consistently recovered by different methods of phylogenetic inference described above. There are a total of seven internal nodes; all possible combinations of resolved or collapsed internal nodes in this subtree are 19. For each analysis, we conducted 19 independent runs using each of the 19 trees as the starting tree to confirm convergence. Inter- and intraspecific genetic distances (% mean, range) of four *Chorioptes* species are provided in Table 2. We explored results from the two species delimitation algorithms, with and without reversible jump (rjMCMC) each (Table 3). Because there are nuclear and mitochondrial markers in our dataset, we allowed  $\theta$ s to vary among loci—the heredity scalar was set to 1 (18S) and 0.25 (CO1). All analyses were run for 200,000 generations and a sampling frequency of 1; the first 20,000 MCMC samples were discarded as burn-in.

**Analysis of external morphology** Drawings were made with a Leica microscope equipped with differential interference contrast (Nomarsky optics) and a camera lucida. In the description below, the idiosomal setation follows Griffiths et al. (1990) with modifications of Norton (1998) for coxal setae. The leg setation follows Grandjean (1941). Names for homologous setae used by Sweatman (1958) and Fain (1963) are provided in Table 4. All measurements are given in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) and were taken as follows: body length=the total length from the anterior extremity of the palps to the posterior border of the body, including the lobar membranes in males; body width=width at the level of setae *cp*; length of dorsal shields=maximum length, measured along the median line of the shields; and length of the posterior legs=length from the most basal point of the trochanter to the apex of the tarsus, excluding pretarsus.

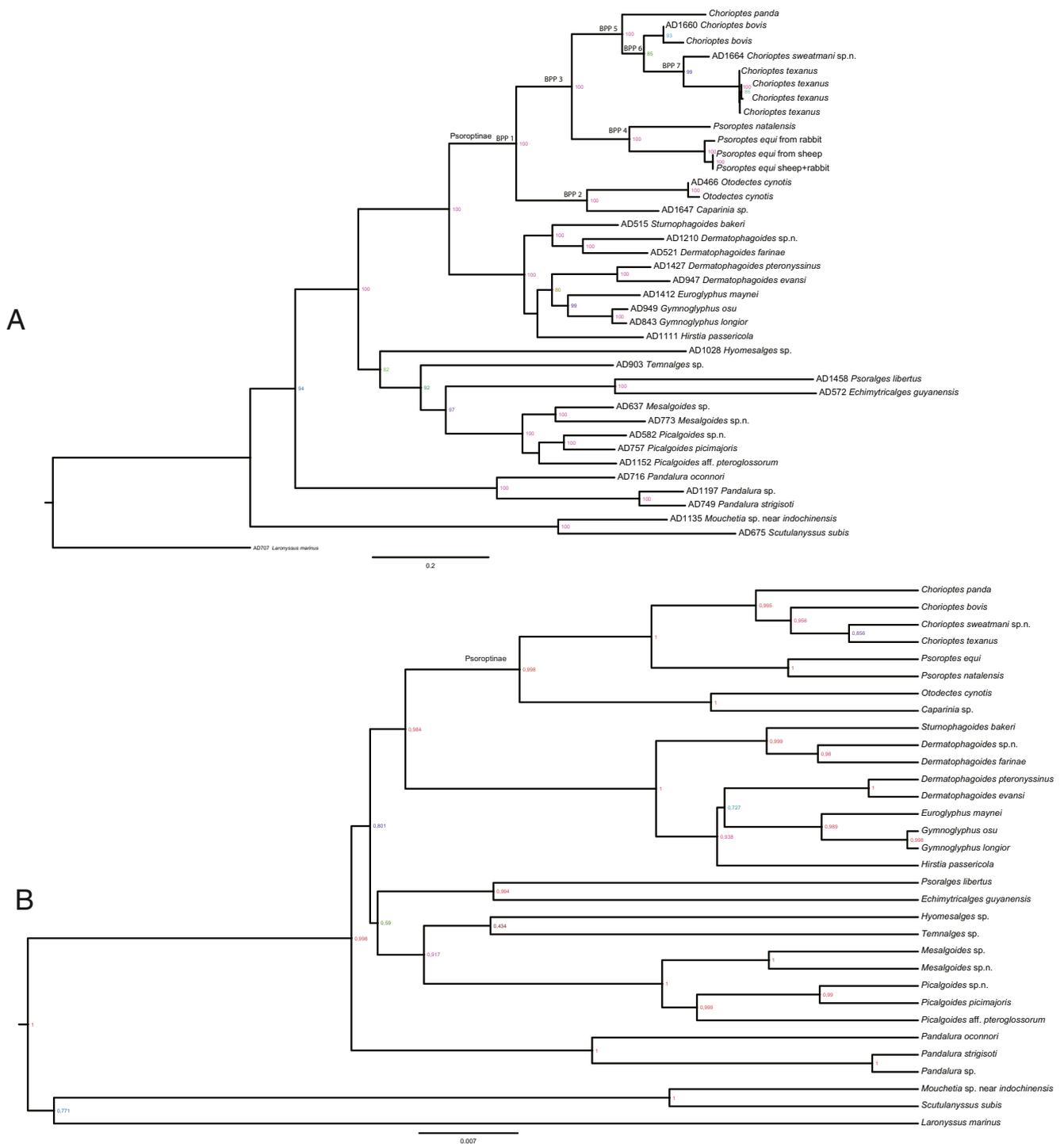
Small mite structures were analyzed with a scanning electron microscope (Quanta 250). Mites were put in 96 % ethanol for 24 h, transferred to hexamethyldisilazane for 10 min, and then dried and sputtered with platinum.

Differential characters of *Chorioptes* species are given in Table 5. Records of all hosts are summarized in Table 6. Host systematics is given after Wilson and Reeder (2005).

The following abbreviations of institutes were used: BMNH—British Museum of Natural History, London, UK; IRSNB—Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium; OSAL—Acarology Laboratory, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA; UMMZ—Museum of Zoology, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA; ZISP—Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

## Results of molecular analyses

In all our analyses (Maximum likelihood, Bayesian concatenated analyses, and \*BEAST species tree analysis), mites of the subfamily Psoroptinae form a monophyletic group (100 % BS, 1.0 PP) being the sister clade to the family Pyroglyphidae (house dust mites and relatives). In all trees, inferred relationships of the four included psoroptine genera (*Otodectes*, *Caparinia*, *Psoroptes*, and *Chorioptes*) were congruent. Species level relationships for our target taxon, *Chorioptes*, were the same across the concatenation analyses (RAXML, MrBayes) and had a high support (BS 85–100, PP 0.75–1.00), indicating robustness of our inference under different analytical approaches (Fig. 1a, b). The new species, *Chorioptes sweatmani*, was placed as a sister group to *Ch. texanus* with substantial support (BS 99, PP 0.76). In our dataset (18S, CO1) for *Chorioptes* species, the average corrected genetic distances



**Fig. 1** **a, b.** Phylogenetic trees of psoroptids and relatives (39 terminals) inferred from five nuclear loci (18S, 28S rDNA, EF1- $\alpha$ , SRP54, HSP70) and one mitochondrial locus (CO1) (10,838 sites). *Scale bars* represent expected changes per site. **a** Maximum likelihood tree inferred by RAxML. Bootstrap support values are shown for nodes with support higher than 50. A guide tree was derived from this phylogeny for a subset

of putative species used in species delimitation analyses in BPP; seven nodes are labeled so they correspond to the seven digit numbers representing the 19 species delimitation models (see Table 3 for detail); **b** Maximum clade credibility tree (39 individuals, 32 species) inferred in \*BEAST species tree analysis. Posterior probabilities are shown for each node

range between 5.6–14.9 %, while distances within species were between 0.2–0.5 % (Table 2). Two sister species, *Ch. sweatmani* and *Ch. texanus* had the smallest

interspecific distances (5.6–6.4 % vs 9.6–14.9 % for other species). The intra- and interspecific genetic distances between the four *Chorioptes* species do not overlap,

**Table 2** Inter- and intraspecific genetic distances (% mean, range) of four *Chorioptes* species and an outgroup

	<i>P. ovis</i>	<i>Ch. panda</i>	<i>Ch. bovis</i>	<i>Ch. sweatmani</i>	<i>Ch. texanus</i>
<i>P. ovis</i>	1.05 (0.00–1.74)	22.39 (19.95–25.72)	22.11 (10.65–40.44)	25.27 (20.59–29.28)	22.85 (19.76–27.21)
<i>Ch. panda</i>		0	11.54 (11.90–11.18)	13.04	14.29 (13.80–14.93)
<i>Ch. bovis</i>			0.52	8.65 (7.08–10.22)	10.53 (9.58–11.67)
<i>Ch. sweatmani</i>				0	6.06 (5.59–6.39)
<i>Ch. texanus</i>					0.21 (0.07–0.36)

indicating potential absence of gene flow between these species (Table 2). Coalescent-based species delimitation analysis supports the species status of all species, including *C. sweatmani* sp. nov., by recovering the fully resolved guide tree in all runs employing different starting trees, species delimitation algorithms, and sets of priors for the ancestral population size ( $\theta$ ) and root age ( $\tau_0$ ) (Table 3).

## Systematics

*C. sweatmani* sp. nov.

(Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 and Figs. 13, 14 and 15)

?*C. texanus*, Sweatman 1958: 525, Fig. 1

*Chorioptes bovis*, Morrison et al. 2003: 498 (misidentification)

**Table 3** Posterior probability distributions for species delimitation models for the “canonical” Psoroptidae under different combinations of  $\theta$  and  $\tau_0$  priors. Posterior probabilities (PP) are averages from 19 independent runs using the 19 models as starting trees. Percentages of models sampled are reported. This analysis uses species delimitation algorithm 1 and fine-tune 0: 0.5, 0.002, 0.0009, 0.002, 0.06, 0.2, and 1.0, but different analyses utilizing the two species delimitation algorithms with and

without reversible jump (rjMCMC) were conducted. Results were similar. The guide tree (model 1111111) is based on the ML topology (Fig. 1a). On that tree, nodes are labeled 1–7 (Fig. 1a), representing the position of that node in the model; 0 means collapsed and 1 resolved. For example, model 18 (1111110) represents a topology where nodes 1–6 correspond to those of the guide tree (Fig. 1a) but node 7 is collapsed (i. e., *Ch. texanus* and *Ch. sweatmani* is a single species)

Id	Model	Prior distributions					
		$\theta \sim G(1, 10)$ $\tau_0 \sim G(1, 10)$		$\theta \sim G(2, 1000)$ $\tau_0 \sim G(2, 1000)$		$\theta \sim G(1, 10)$ $\tau_0 \sim G(2, 1000)$	
		PP	Sampled (%)	PP	Sampled (%)	PP	Sampled (%)
1	000000	0.0023	5.3	–	–	–	–
2	100000	0.0000	5.3	–	–	–	–
3	101000	0.0000	5.3	–	–	0.0001	5.3
4	101010	0.0001	5.3	–	–	0.0001	63.2
5	101011	0.0013	10.5	–	–	0.0014	100.0
6	101011	0.0041	100.0	–	–	0.0559	100.0
7	101100	0.0000	5.3	–	–	0.0001	31.6
8	101110	0.0007	5.3	–	–	0.0003	78.9
9	101111	0.0008	57.9	–	–	0.0042	100.0
10	101111	0.0344	100.0	–	–	0.1940	100.0
11	110000	0.0000	5.3	–	–	–	–
12	111000	0.0001	5.3	–	–	0.0001	31.6
13	111010	0.0004	5.3	–	–	0.0003	73.7
14	111011	0.0004	94.7	–	–	0.0033	100.0
15	111011	0.0678	100.0	–	–	0.1499	100.0
16	111100	0.0001	5.3	0.1028	10.5	0.0001	31.6
17	111110	0.0012	5.3	0.0007	10.5	0.0005	89.5
18	111111	0.0021	100.0	0.0000	10.5	0.0106	100.0
19	111111	0.8903	100.0	0.9852	100.0	0.5795	100.0

**Table 4** Abbreviations of idiosomal and leg setae of *Chorioptes* males applied by various authors

This paper	<i>c1</i>	<i>c2</i>	<i>c3</i>	<i>cp</i>	<i>d1</i>	<i>d2</i>	<i>e1</i>	<i>e2</i>	<i>f2</i>	<i>h2</i>	<i>h3</i>	<i>ps1</i>	<i>ps2</i>	<i>ps3</i>	<i>1a</i>	<i>3a</i>	<i>4a</i>	<i>4b</i>	<i>g</i>	wIII
Fain (1963)	<i>d1</i>	<i>l1</i>	<i>sh</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>d2</i>	<i>l2</i>	<i>d3</i>	<i>l3</i>	<i>l5</i>	<i>l4</i>	<i>d5</i>	<i>d4</i>	<i>ae</i>	<i>ai</i>	<i>cxI</i>	<i>cxIII</i>	<i>gp</i>	<i>ga</i>	<i>gm</i>	–
Swetman (1958)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	6	2A	2B	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	5

*Chorioptes* sp., Hestvik et al. 2007: 4, Figs 1 and 2  
*Chorioptes* morphotype C, Lusat et al. 2011: 372, Fig. 4  
*Description* Male (holotype, Figs. 2, 4e, 5, 6, 13c, d, 14, 15d). Body, including gnathosoma and opisthosomal lobes, 395 µm long (380–405 in 10 paratypes), 285 wide (280–295). Gnathosoma about 40 long and 70 wide. *Idiosoma*. Idiosoma about 310 long in midline (excluding opisthosomal lobes), about 1.1 times longer than wide. Propodonal shield about 60 long, bearing distinctly developed median keel and alveoli of *ve*. Hysteronotal shield 125 long (120–125) in midline. Distance between propodonal and hysteronotal shields about 110. Setae *d1* situated on anterior margin of hysteronotal shield. Setae *h2* and *h3* flattened, membranous (8–9 maximum width). Aedeagus about 10 long. Diameter of adanal suckers about 25, distance between suckers about 20. Opisthosomal lobes subquadrate, their length and width subequal, 30 long (27–31) (see Figs. 5 and 12a, b for comparison with other species). Maximum distance between lobes 37 (35–37). Lengths of setae: *si* 22 (21–24), *se* 170 (170–185), *c1* 25 (25–27), *c2* 33 (30–35), *cp* 115 (105–120), *c3* 55 (50–60), *d1*, *d2*, *e1*, and *e2* 25–30, *f2* 260 (240–265), *h2* and *h3* 235–260, *ps1* 25 (25–32), *ps2* 87 (83–90), *ps3* about 25, *1a* 40 (38–42), *3a* 62 (60–67), *4a* and *4b* 43–50, and *g* 14 (12–14). Distances between setae and levels of seta bases: *c1-c1* about

160, *c2-c2* about 250, *d1-d1* and *e1-e1* about 50, *d2-d2* about 135, *e2-e2* about 125, setae *c1* located equidistantly (about 35) between levels *c2* and *d1*, *d1-e1* about 50, *e1-d2* about 10, and *e1-e2* about 60. *Legs*. Legs III about 200 long. Tarsus III straight, about 45 long and 35 maximum wide, with curved apical spur (see Figs. 6 and 12c, d for comparison with other species). Setae *fIII* bifurcate, with weakly developed ventro-anterior extension (see Figs. 15d for comparison with other species). Setae *eIII* about 2.5 times shorter than respective tarsus; lengths of setae *wIII* and pretarsus are subequal. Legs IV about 60 long. Lengths of setae and solenidia: *sRIII* 50–70, approximately three times shorter than leg III, *kIII* about 40, *dIII* 520–550, *ω3I* 25–30, *ω1I*, II 18–20, *φI*, II 40–50, *φIII* 45–50, *φIV* 32–35, and *σII* about 5.

Female (10 paratypes, Figs. 3 and 4a–d, Fig. 13a, b, Fig. 15a–c). Body, including gnathosoma, 400–460 µm long, 265–310 wide. Gnathosoma about 75 long and 70 wide. *Idiosoma*. Idiosoma about 1.3–1.5 times longer than wide. Propodonal shield about 100 long, bearing distinctly developed median keel and patches of setal alveoli *ve*. Lengths of setae: *si* 28–30, *se* 170–190, *c1* 24–26, *c2* 34–37, *cp* 85–105, *c3* 48–60, *d1*, *d2*, *e1*, *e2*, and *ps1* about 25, *f2*, *h3*, *ps2*, and *ps3* 15–20, *h2* 80–90, *1a* 50–55, *3a* 70–75, *4a* and *4b*, and *g* 25–28. Distances between setae and levels of seta bases: *c1-c1*

**Table 5** Diagnostic characters of *Chorioptes* spp. (males) **1**. Body, including gnathosoma and opisthosomal lobes, longer than 300 µm (0); shorter than 300 µm (1). **2**. Opisthosomal lobes subquadrate (0); triangular (1). **3**. Setae *cp* <2.5 times shorter than body (0); 3–4 times shorter than body (1). **4**. Bases of setae *h2* and *h3* situated close to each other (0); distinctly separated (1). **5**. Setae *h2* and *h3* widely lanceolate, about 18 maximum wide (0); narrowly lanceolate, 7–9 maximum wide (1); slightly flattened, 2–3 maximum wide (2). **6**. Setae *ps2* not thickened in comparison with *ps1* (0); slightly thickened (1). **7**. Setae *ps2* distinctly shorter than *ps1* (0); distinctly longer (1). **8**. Setae *ps2* longer than *ps1* (0);

distinctly shorter (1). **9**. Setae *sRIII* about two times shorter than leg III (0); at least three times shorter (1). **10**. Seta *fIII* bifurcate, with poorly developed apical-ventral extension (0); trifurcate, with well-developed extension (1). **11**. Solenidion *φIII* subequal or slightly longer than tibia III (0); two times shorter (1). **12**. Seta *eIII* distinctly shorter than respective tarsus excluding pretarsus (0); distinctly longer (1). **13**. Seta *wIII* subequal in length to respective tarsus excluding pretarsus (0); distinctly longer (1). **14**. Tarsus III straight (0); slightly curved (1). **15**. Apical spur of tarsus III straight (0); curved (1). **16**. Spur near seta *fIII* base not developed (0); small but distinct (1)

Species	Characters															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>creweii</i>	0	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	1	0	0	<b>1</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	?
<i>bovis</i>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>1</b> <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0
<i>panda</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	1
<i>texanus</i>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>sweatmani</i>	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0
<i>mydaus</i>	1	0	0	0	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Numbers in bold—unique states

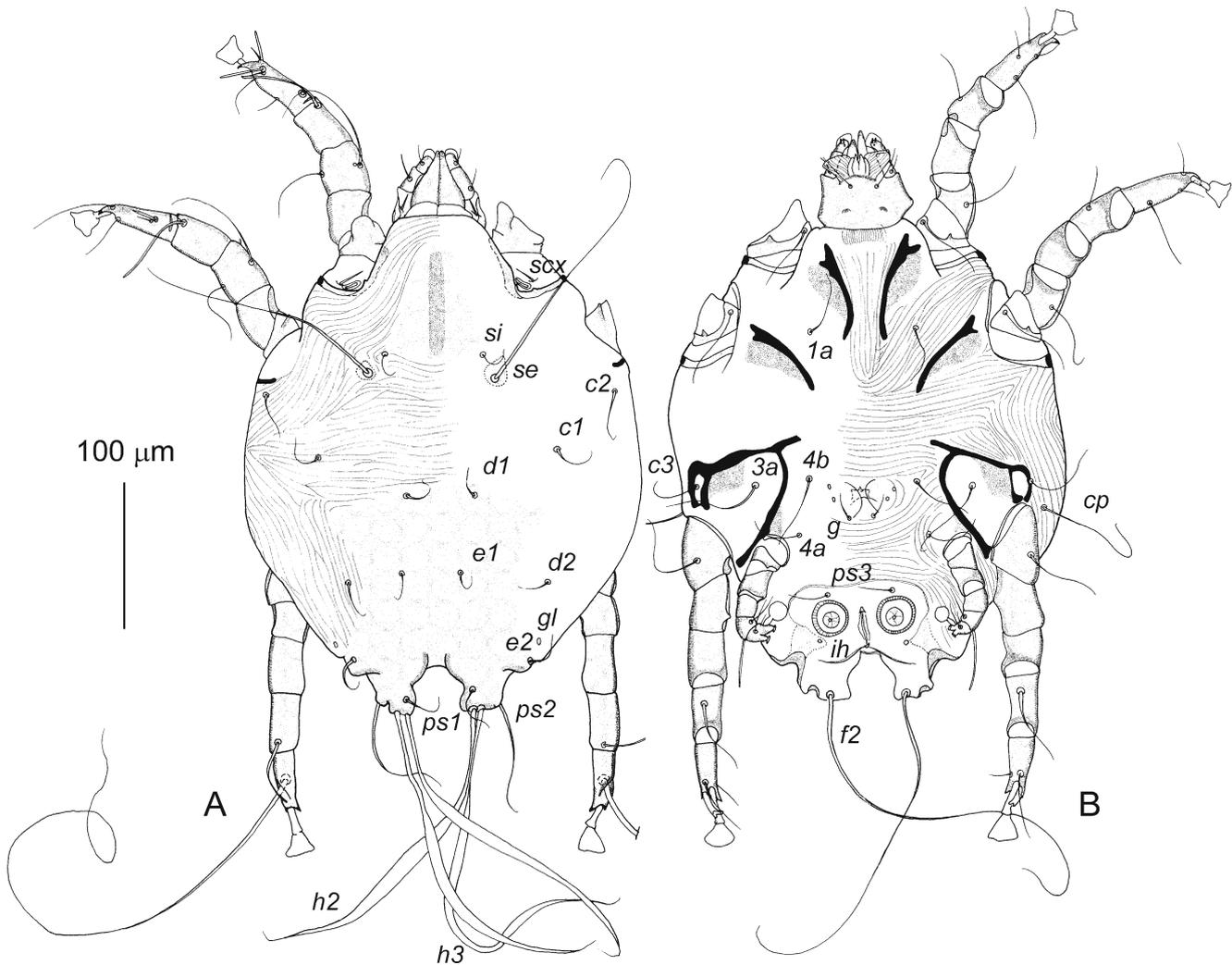
<sup>a</sup> Excluding specimens from *Capricornis crispus*

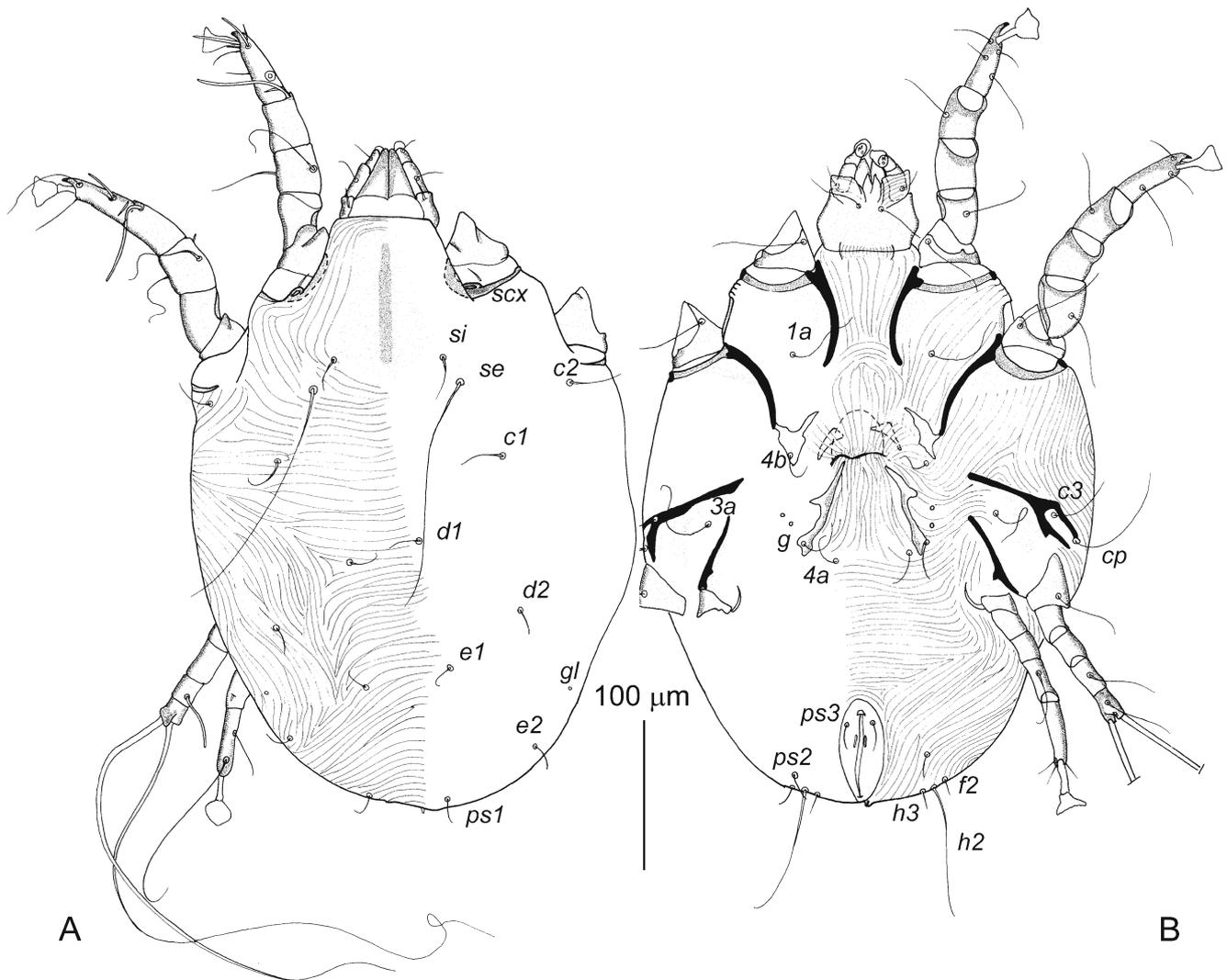
**Table 6** Hosts and distributions of *Chorioptes* species

Mite species	Hosts		Locality
	Species	Family	
<i>Chorioptes bovis</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Bos taurus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>b,c</sup>	Bovidae	Germany: Hering (1845, cited by Sweatman 1957); Switzerland: Kollbrunner et al. (2010); Netherlands: Essig et al. (1999); Russia (St. Petersburg Prov.): this paper; Iran: Tavasoli et al. (1998); Israel: Yeruham et al. (1981); China: Wang et al. (2012); Japan: Nagata et al. (1995); Australia: Domrow (1992); New Zealand: Whitten (1962); Canada: Sweatman (1957), Kennedy and Kralka (1986); Brazil: Faccini and Massard (1976), Oba et al. (1977), Castro et al. (1978); Peru: Ramirez et al. (1964)
	<i>Bison bonasus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <sup>c</sup>	Bovidae	Poland: Izdebska (2006), Kadulski et al. (1996)
	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <sup>d</sup>	Bovidae	Sweatman (1957)
	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i> (Pallas, 1766) <sup>d</sup>	Bovidae	Sweatman (1957)
	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i> (Angas, 1848) <sup>d</sup>	Bovidae	Sweatman (1957)
	<i>Capricornis crispus</i> (Temminck, 1836)	Bovidae	Japan: Takahashi et al. (2001), Shibata et al. (2003)
	<i>Ovis aries</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>c</sup>	Bovidae	UK: Cave (1909); Iceland: Essig et al. (1999); Netherlands: Cremers (1985b); Germany: Zurn (1847); Poland: Kamyszeh and Wertejuk (1983), Kamyszek (1986); Israel: Yeruham et al. (1999 a? b?); Pakistan: Ahmad et al. (1993); Australia: McKenna and Pulsford (1947), Domrow (1992); New Zealand Whitten (1962), Heath (1979a, 1983), Heath et al. (1989); Canada: Sweatman (1957)
	<i>Ovis dalli</i> (Nelson, 1884) <sup>c</sup>	Bovidae	Germany: Schmaschke et al. (1995)
	<i>Capra hircus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>c</sup>	Bovidae	UK: Lusat et al. (2009); France: Delafond and Bourguignon (1857-1858), Mollereau (1889); Netherlands: Cremers (1985b); Germany: Gerlach (1857, cited from Sweatman (1957)); Israel: Yeruham et al. (1999 a, b); Indonesia: Oudemans (1926); New Zealand: Helson (1956), Heath (1979b), Heath (1983), Heath et al. (1989); India: Neog et al. (1992), Dalapati and Bhowmik (1996); Senegal: Alogninouwa and Parent (1986); USA: Kemper et al. (1952); Canada: Sweatman (1957)
	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bovidae	Switzerland: present paper
	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i> (Pallas, 1777) <sup>c</sup>	Bovidae	UK: Raillet and Mouquet (1919 cited from Sweatman (1957))
	<i>Gazella gazella</i> (Pallas, 1766)	Bovidae	Israel: Yeruham et al. (1999a, b)
	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cervidae	Poland: Kadulski (1996b)
	<i>Lama glama</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <sup>c</sup>	Camelidae	UK: D'Alterio et al. (2005), Foster et al. (2007), Lusat et al. (2009, 2011); Germany: Essig et al. (1999); Netherlands: Cremers (1985a); Canada: Sweatman (1957)
	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>c</sup>	Camelidae	Netherlands: Cremers (1985a)
	<i>Equus caballus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>c</sup>	Equidae	UK: Turk (1946); France: Megnin (1872); Netherlands: Cremers (1985b); Germany: Gerlach (1857, cited by Sweatman 1957), Essig et al. (1999); Sweden: Lusat et al. (2011); Russia: Palimpestov (1947); Australia: Rose (1940), Nicol (1946), Domrow (1992); New Zealand: Whitten (1962); USA: Perris (1995); Canada: Sweatman (1957)
<i>Equus asinus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>d</sup>	Equidae	Sweatman (1957)	
<i>Equus burchellii</i> (Gray, 1824) <sup>d</sup>	Equidae	Sweatman (1957)	
<i>Chorioptes texanus</i>	<i>Capra hircus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>b,c</sup>	Bovidae	USA (Texas): Hirst (1924)
	<i>Capricornis swinhoei</i> Gray, 1862	Bovidae	Taiwan: Chen Chen and Pei (2007)
	<i>Bos taurus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 <sup>c</sup>	Bovidae	Germany: Essig et al. (1999), Lusat et al. (2011) Israel: Yeruham et al. (1989, 1999), Essig et al. (1999); South Korea: Suh et al. (2008); China: Wang et al. (2012); Japan: Nagata et al. (1995); Malaysia: Domy et al. (1994); USA: Essig et al. (1999), Lusat et al. (2011); Brazil: Faccini and Massard (1976)
	<i>Dama dama</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cervidae	Poland: Szczurek and Kadulski (2004)
	<i>Alces alces</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cervidae	Poland: Kadulski (1996a, b)
	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <sup>c,e</sup>	Cervidae	Canada (Arctic part): Sweatman (1958)

**Table 6** (continued)

Mite species	Hosts		Locality
	Species	Family	
<i>Chorioptes sweatmani</i>	<i>Alces alces</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Cervidae	Sweden: Hestvik et al. (2007), Lusat et al. (2011), this paper; Finland: this paper; Russia (Kirov Prov.): this paper
<i>Chorioptes crewei</i>	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i> (Gray, 1846) <sup>b</sup>	Bovidae	Cameroon: Lavoipierre (1958, 1959)
<i>Chorioptes panda</i>	<i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i> (David, 1869) <sup>b,c</sup> and in field	Ursidae	French: Fain and Leclerc (1975)  China: Wang et al. (2012)
	<i>Ursus thibetanus</i> Cuvier, 1823	Ursidae	China: Wu et al. (1989 cited by Wang et al. 2012))
	<i>Ursus americanus</i> (Pallas, 1780) <sup>c</sup>	Ursidae	UK: present paper
<i>Chorioptes mydaus</i>	<i>Mydaus javanensis</i> (Desmarest, 1820) <sup>b</sup>	Methitidae	Malaysia: Fain (1975)

<sup>a</sup> type species of the genus<sup>b</sup> type host<sup>c</sup> domesticated or captive host<sup>d</sup> reared in vitro<sup>e</sup> this record could belong to *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov.**Fig. 2** a, b *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., male. a Dorsal view. b Ventral view

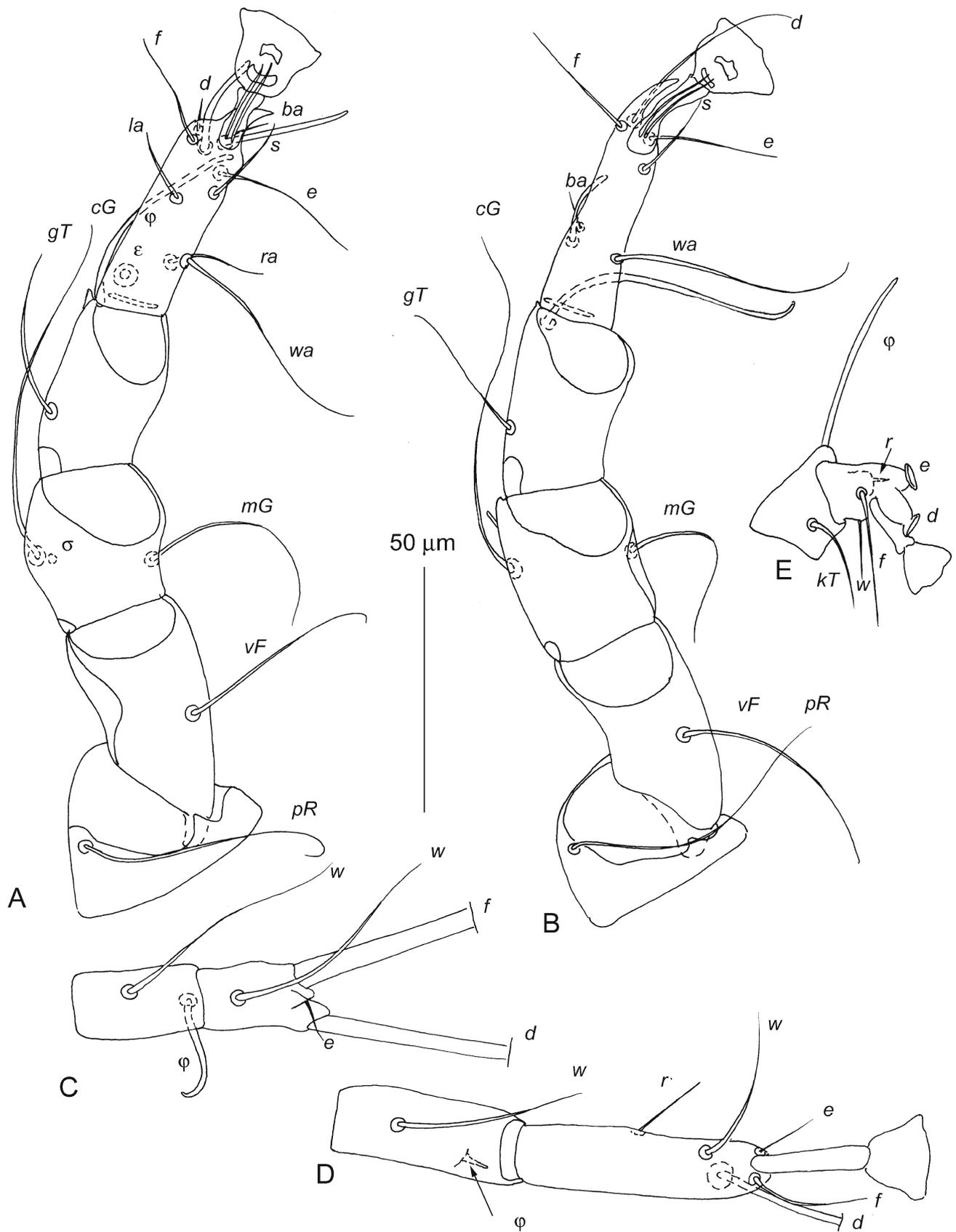


**Fig. 3** a, b *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., female. **a** Dorsal view. **b** Ventral view

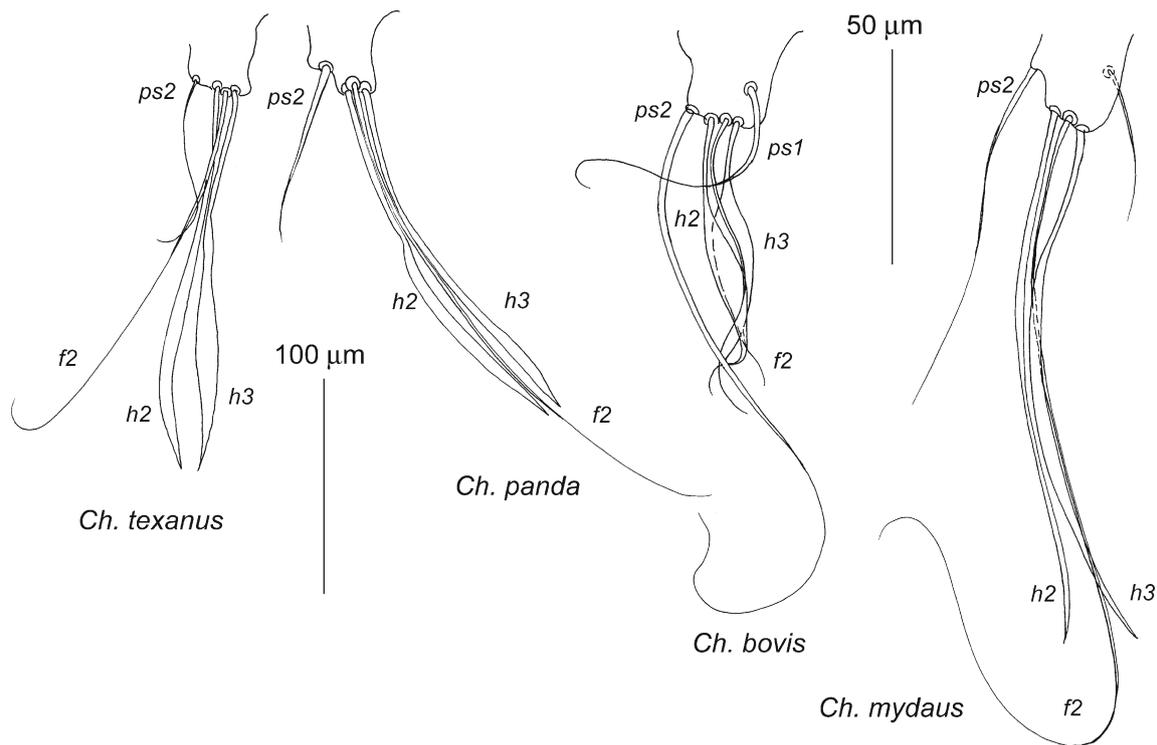
about 150, *c2-c2* about 250, *d1-d1* and *e1-e1* about 50, *d2-d2*, *e2-e2*, and *ps1-ps1* about 160, setae *c1* located equidistantly (about 50) between levels *c2* and *d1*, *d1-e1* about 85, *e1-d2* about 35, and *e1-e2* about 55. *Legs*. Legs III about 110 long; legs IV about 125–135 long. Pretarsus IV about 35 long. Lengths of setae and solenidia: *sRIII* 25–40, *kTIII* about 50, *dIII* 440–550, *dIV* 440–5500 long, *fIII* 330–360,  $\omega$ 3I 33–35,  $\omega$ 1I, II 23–25,  $\varphi$ I, II 50–55,  $\varphi$ III 35–37,  $\varphi$ IV 4–5, and  $\sigma$ II 3–4.

*Larva* (10 paratypes, Figs. 7 and 8). Body 290–330  $\mu$ m long and 210–230 wide. *Gnathosoma*. Gnathosoma having structure typical for Psoroptidae with full complement of setae. Palps 2-segmented with short apical membrane. Dorsal lobes not developed, pseudorutellar membranes of subcapitulum distinctly developed, transversally striated. Palpal setae: *dTi*, *I'*, *dTa*,  $\omega$ , *ul'*, and *ul''*; subcapitular setae: *elcp* and *subc*. *Idiosoma*. Propodeonotal shield about 60 long, bearing median keel and pair of small unsclerotized spots (remnants of setal alveoli *ve*). Hysteronotal shield absent. Openings of oil glands

(*gl*) distinct. Opisthosomal margin widely rounded. Idiosomal setae: *si*, *se*, *c1*, *c2*, *cp*, *c3*, *d1*, *d2*, *e1*, *e2*, *h2*, *1a*, and *3a*. Setae *scx* present. Setae *si* and *se* situated off propodeonotal shield; *si* located close but distinctly anterior to *se*. Lengths of setae: *se* 100, situated on small sclerotized plates, *cp* about 40, *h2* about 30, other dorsal setae short (10–12), *1a* and *3a* about 20 long, *c3* 14–16. Setae *d1* situated anterior to level of *d2*, distance between levels of setae *d1* and *d2* about 40, *e1* situated anterior to level of *e2*, distance between levels of setae *e1* and *e2* about 30. Apodemes Ia free. One pair of small ventro-lateral sclerites present between coxal fields II and III. *Legs*. Tarsi I and II bearing dorso-apical spur. Legs III with five articulated segments. Pretarsi I and II normally developed; pretarsus III absent. Setation of legs I–III: I—tarsus *d*, *e*, *f*, *ra*, *wa*, *la*, *s*, *ba*,  $\omega$ 1 (in apical part of tarsus, slightly shorter than respective segment),  $\varepsilon$  (button-like), tibia *gT*,  $\varphi$  (1.8–2 times longer than respective segment), genu *cG*, *mG*,  $\sigma$ 1I (represented only by alveolar patch), femur *vF*, trochanter without seta; II—tarsus *d*,



**Fig. 4** a–e *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., legs (ventral view). **a** Leg I of female. **b** Leg II of female. **c** Tibia-tarsus III of female. **d** Tibia-tarsus IV of female. **e** Tibia-tarsus IV of male



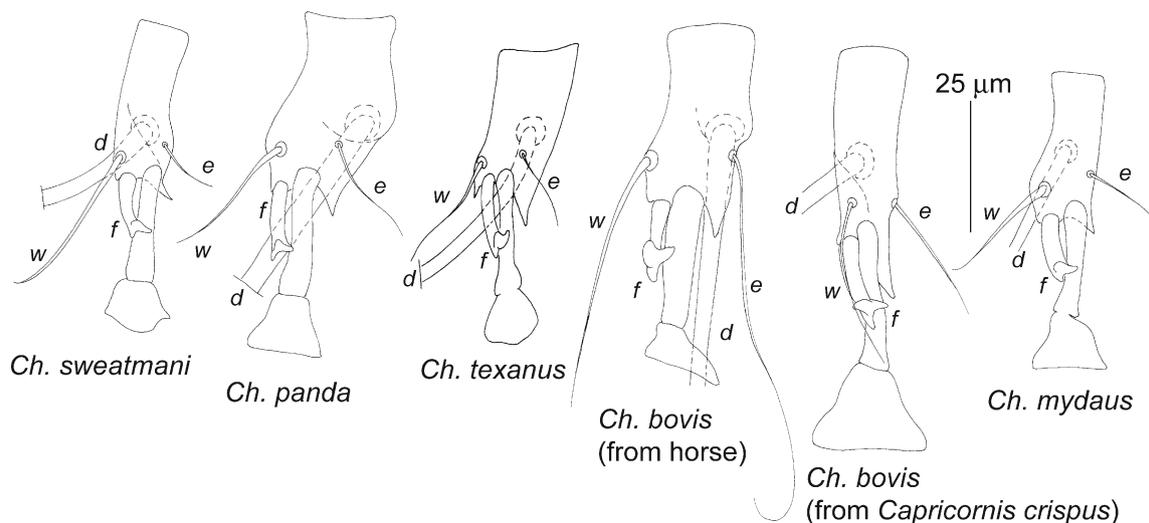
**Fig. 5** *Chorioptes* spp., opisthosomal lobes of male

*e, f, wa, s, ba, ω1* (in median part of tarsus, slightly shorter than respective segment), tibia *gT, φ* (1.8–2 times longer than respective segment), genu *cG, mG, σII* (2 long), femur *vF*, trochanter without seta; III—tarsus *d* and *f* (both whip-like, longer than respective leg), *e, w*, tibia *kTIII*, and *φ*; other segments of leg III without setae.

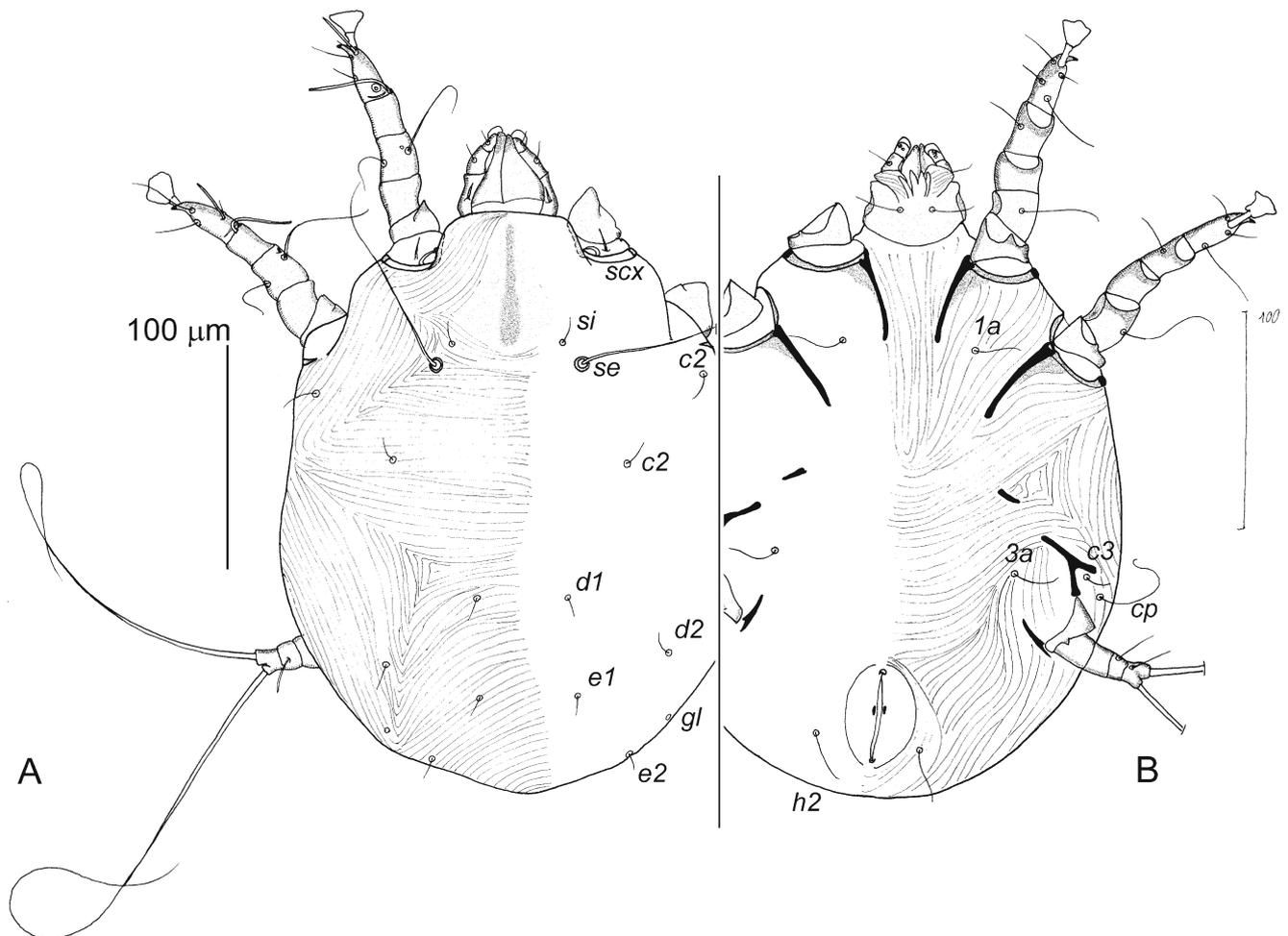
Male protonymph (10 paratypes, Fig. 9). Body 330–360 μm long and 220–250 wide. Propodonal shield about 80 long. One pair of genital papillae, setae *f2, h3, ps1, ps2, ps3*, and *g* added on idiosoma. Setae *f2* situated near bases of *h2*. Lengths of setae: *se* about 120, *cp* about 70, *h3* about 40,

other dorsal setae 15–20 long; *1a* about 65 long, *3a* about 40, *c3* about 20, other ventral setae and setae *f2* 10–15. Distances *d1-d2* and *e1-e2* 30 and 40, respectively. Legs IV added, with five segments, about two times shorter than legs III. Pretarsus IV absent, Setae *dIV* whip-like, longer than respective leg, *w, r* present on tarsus IV.

Male tritonymph (10 paratypes, Fig. 10). Body 400–430 μm long and 260–290 wide. Propodonal shield about 80 long. Second pair of genital papillae, setae *4a* and *4b* added on idiosoma. Lengths of setae: *se* about 150, *cp* about 100, *h3* about 80, other dorsal setae and *c3* 20–25 long, *1a* and *3a* 35–



**Fig. 6** *Chorioptes* spp., tarsi III of male



**Fig. 7** a, b *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., larva. a Dorsal view. b Ventral view

38, other ventral setae and *f2* 8–12. Solenidion  $\omega 3$  added on tarsus I, setae *pRI* and *pRII* added on trochanters I and II, respectively, setae *sRIII* added on trochanter III, almost twice as short as respective leg. Setae *eIV* (very short) and *fIV* (subequal in length to respective leg) added on tarsus IV; *kTIV* and  $\varphi IV$  added on tibia IV.

Female protonymph (10 paratypes, Fig. 11a, b). Similar to male protonymph, differing by following features. Body 410–460  $\mu\text{m}$  long and 230–260 wide. Setae *h2* short, 15–17 long. Posterior margin of opisthosoma bearing pair of attachment cuticular projections about 15 long and 14 wide. Distance between these projections about 15.

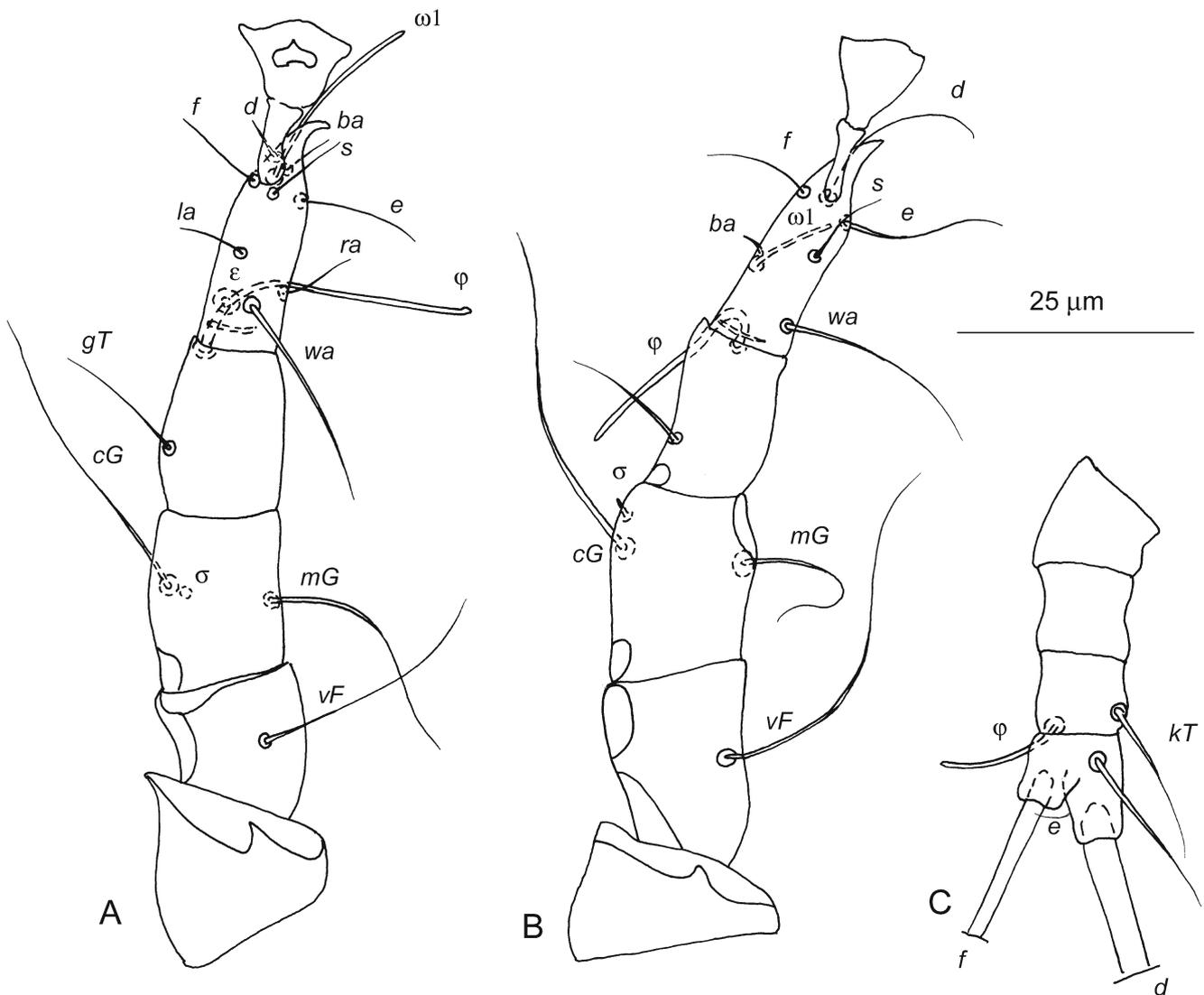
Female tritonymph (10 paratypes, Fig. 11c, d). Similar to male tritonymph, differing by following features. Body 420–460  $\mu\text{m}$  long and 270–300 wide. Setae *h2* short, 18–20 long. Posterior margin of opisthosoma bearing pair of attachment cuticular projections about 25 long and 18 wide. Distance between these projections about 20.

**Remark** In the genus *Chorioptes*, tarsal setae *eIII* of females and *rIV* of males were overlooked by previous researchers.

These setae are very short and closely adjoining to the tarsus making their detection very difficult. They are, however, well visible under a scanning electron microscope. After careful examination, we observed these setae in all species of *Chorioptes* under a light microscope.

The pattern of ontogenetic changes described for *Ch. sweatmani* here is typical for psoroptidian mites and probably is the same for all species of the genus. In *Chorioptes*, delays in ontogenetic setal appearance are not recorded. Setae which are absent in adults (*laII*, *raII*, *rIII*, *sIII*, and  $\sigma III$ ) are absent also in immature stages.

**Differential diagnosis** The new species is closely related to *Ch. texanus*. Males of both these species differ from other representatives of the genus (see Table 5 for states) by the following combination of character states. The opisthosomal lobes are subquadrate in outline and at least twice as short as tarsi III (with pretarsi), setae *h2* and *h3* are flattened (7–8  $\mu\text{m}$  wide) and distinctly longer than *ps2*, tarsus III is straight, setae *fIII* are bifurcate, with a poorly developed apical-ventral extension.

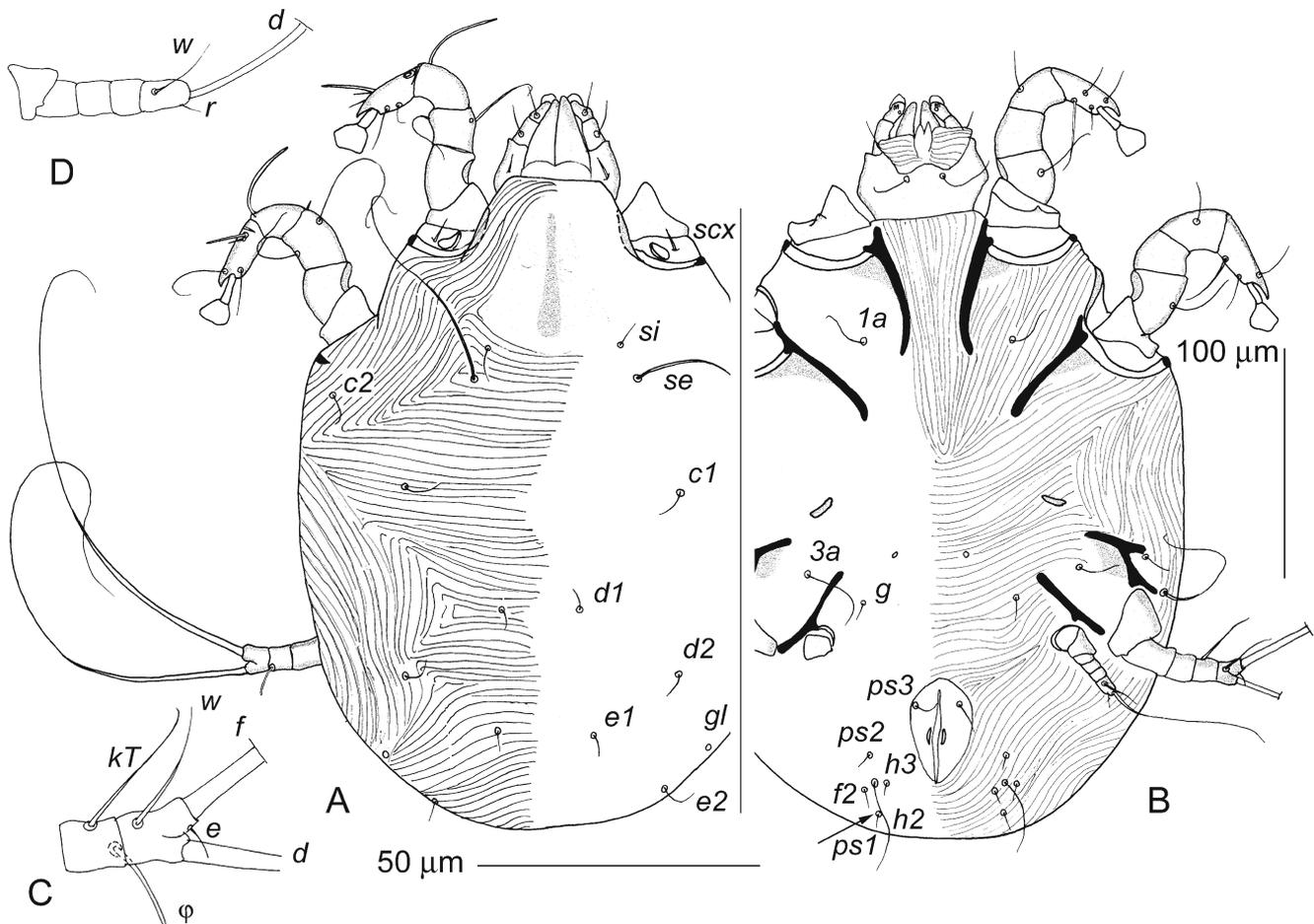


**Fig. 8** a–c *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., legs of larva (ventral view). a Leg I. b Leg II. c Tibia-trochanter III

The new species differs from *Ch. texanus* by the following features. In males of *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov., the body length, including the gnathosoma, is 380–405  $\mu\text{m}$ , the idiosoma is 1.6–1.7 times longer than setae *h2* and *h3*, the idiosoma is 3–4 times longer than setae *cp*, legs III, excluding pretarsus, are approximately three times longer than setae *sRIII*, the apical spur of tarsus III is curved, a spur near seta *fIII* base is not developed; in females, setae *h2* are relatively short, 1.4–1.5 times shorter than legs IV, excluding pretarsus. In males of *Ch. texanus* (material from US and South Korean cattle), the body length, including the gnathosoma, is 220–295, the idiosoma is 1.3–1.4 times longer than setae *h2* and *h3*, the idiosoma is 1.3–1.6 times longer than setae *cp*, legs III, excluding pretarsus, are approximately 1.8–2 times longer than setae *sRIII*, the apical spur of tarsus III is straight, a spur near seta *fIII* base is small but distinct; in females, setae *h2* are long, about two times longer than legs IV, excluding pretarsus.

**Etymology** This species is dedicated to the Canadian parasitologist, Dr. Gordon K. Sweatman in recognition of his work on psoroptid mites.

**Type material examined** Male holotype, 10 males, 10 females, 10 males tritonymph, 10 females tritonymph, 10 males protonymph, 10 females protonymph, and 20 larva paratypes (plus numerous paratype specimens preserved in 75 % ethanol) ex *A. alces* (outer ear canal), SWEDEN, Uppland Province, Uppsala County, Enköping Municipality, 59° 43' 9" N, 16° 58' 10" E, spring 2013, coll. G. Hestvik (field number V901/13); five males, five females, five male tritonymphs, five female tritonymphs, five male protonymphs, five female protonymphs, and five larva paratypes (plus numerous paratype specimens preserved in 90 % ethanol) ex *A. alces* (outer ear canal), SWEDEN, Uppland Province, Uppsala County, Heby Municipality, Huddungeby, 60° 2'



**Fig. 9** a–d *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., male protonymph. a. Dorsal view. b. Ventral view. c. Tibia-tarsus III in ventral view. d. Leg IV in ventral view. Scale bars 100 µm=a, b 50 µm=c, d

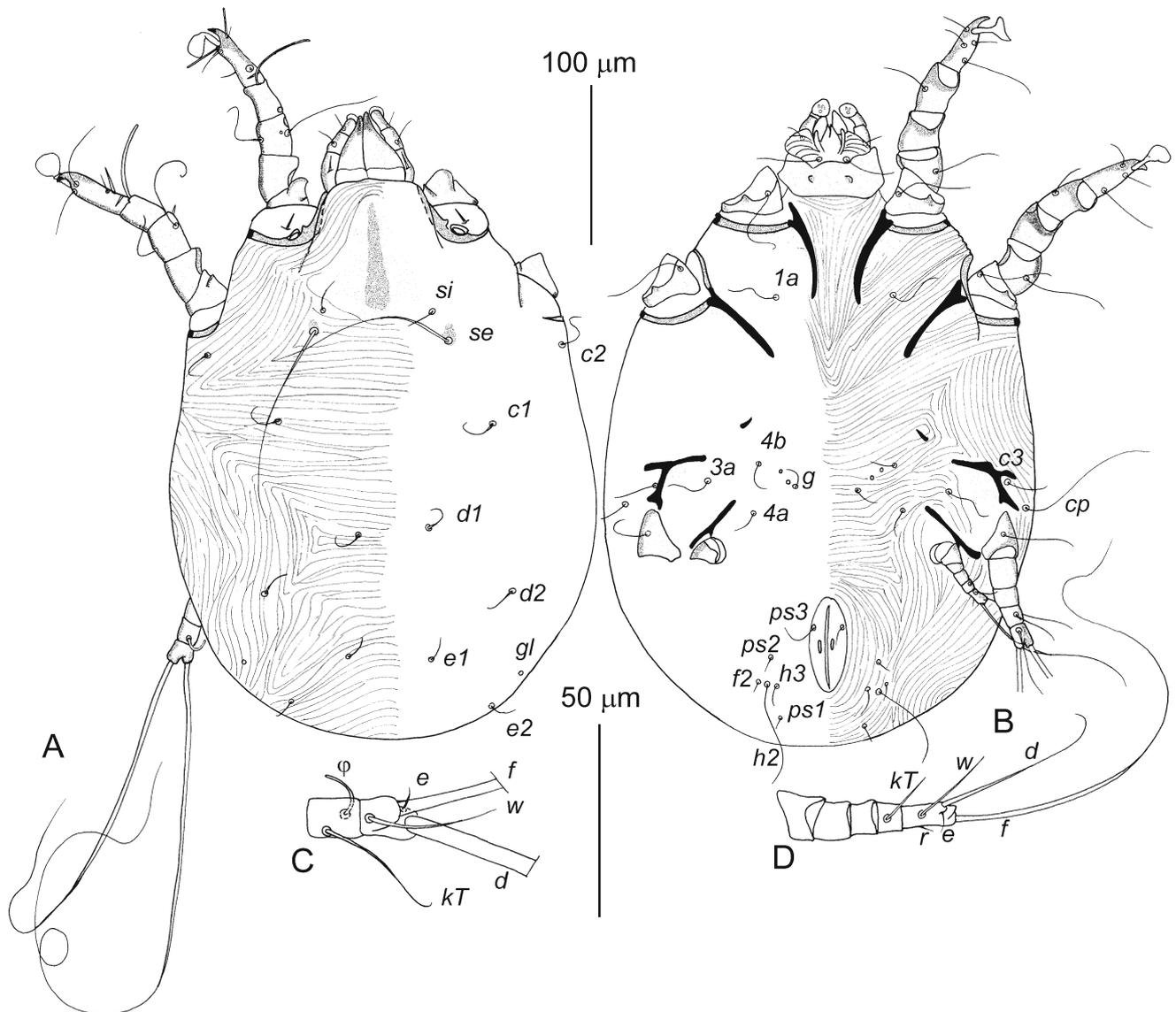
41° N, 16° 58' 17" E, spring 2013, coll. G. Hestvik (field number V1110/13).

**Type deposition** Holotype (ZISP AVB T-Psor-1) and the majority of paratypes are deposited in ZISP. Other paratypes are held in the IRSNB (two males, two females, one male tritonymph, one female tritonymph, one male protonymph, one female protonymph, and two larvae); OSAL (two males, two females, one male tritonymph, one female tritonymph, one male protonymph, one female protonymph, and two larvae); UMMZ (two males, two females, one male tritonymph, one female tritonymph, one male protonymph, one female protonymph, and two larvae); several specimens preserved in 96 % ethanol for molecular work).

**Additional material examined** Two males, three females, two male tritonymphs (ZISP) ex *A. alces* (outer ear canal), RUSSIA, Kirov Province, experimental hunting ground of the Russian Research Institute of Game Management and

Fur Farming near of Polushkintcy village, 58° 35' 43" N, 50° 42' 18" E, 29 December 2012, coll. A.P. Saveljev. Three females (IRSNB) ex *A. alces*, FINLAND, no other data.

**Hosts and distribution** This species is known exclusively from ears of *A. alces* from Sweden (Morrison et al. 2003; Hestvik et al. 2007; Lusat et al. 2011), Finland, and Russia (Kirov Prov.) (Table 6). It is possible that this parasite occurs throughout its host range. It is unknown whether this species can occur on the moose body or only in the ear canals. In the former case, the reports of *Ch. texanus* from *A. alces* and other cervids from Poland (Kadulski et al. 1996) could belong to *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov. Furthermore, the record of *Ch. texanus* from the ears of *Rangifer tarandus* from the Canadian Arctic (Sweatman 1958) could also belong to this species or even represent a new species (Hestvik et al. 2007; Lusat et al. 2011). Unfortunately, specimens used in these two studies are not available to us and new findings from this host are highly needed.

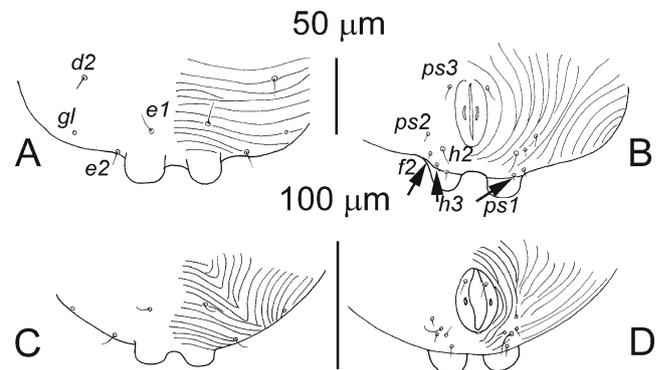


**Fig. 10** a–d *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., male tritonymph. a. Dorsal view. b. Ventral view. c. Tibia-tarsus III in ventral view. d. Leg IV in ventral view. Scale bars 100 μm=a, b 50 μm=c, d

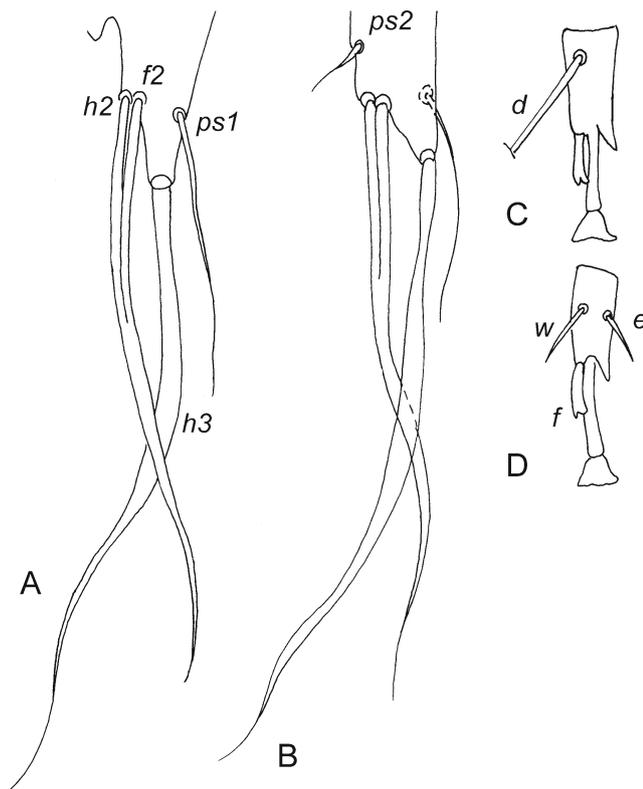
Microhabitat on host outer ear canal

**Pathogenicity** This species is pathogenic, causing chronic skin lesions of their hosts (Hestvik et al. 2007).

**Infestation rate** In Uppland (Sweden), 53 hosts were examined, 43 of them were parasitized by *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov. (~81 %) (Hestvik et al. 2007); in Kirov Prov. (Russia), 28 hosts were examined, one of them was parasitized (~3.6 %) (our data). Most of the Swedish moose specimens were found dead in the field and had a poor nutritional state (Hestvik et al. 2007). Meantime, the Russian moose examined on chorioptic mange were killed in the process of planned shooting and were in good condition. The substantial difference in the infestation rates between the Swedish and Russian moose



**Fig. 11** a–d *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., opisthosoma of female nymphs. a Protonymph in dorsal view. b Protonymph in ventral view. c Tritonymph in dorsal view. d Tritonymph in ventral view



**Fig. 12** a–d *Chorioptes crewei* Lavoipierre 1958, details of male (from Lavoipierre (1959) with modifications). **a** Opisthosomal lobe in dorsal view. **b** Opisthosomal lobe in ventral view. **c** Tarsus III in dorsal view. **d** Tarsus III in ventral view

populations can be explained by the difference in their health condition.

**Comparative material** *C. bovis*: *Bos taurus*: three males and three females (IRSNB), BELGIUM, Brussels, 5 June 1968, coll. M. Pecheur; 10 males, 10 females, five male tritonymphs, five female tritonymphs, five male protonymphs, five female protonymphs, 10 larvae (ZISP), RUSSIA, Saint Petersburg Province, state farm “Krasnij Oktabr”, 8 January 1986, coll. M. Shustrova.

*Lama glama*: two females (IRSNB), Belgium, [Zoo], 28 February 1959, coll. unknown; eight males and two females, same data, 2 March 1959, coll. unknown. *Capricornis crispus*: two males and two females (IRSNB), JAPAN, Nagano Prefecture, Shiojiri City, 36° 6' N, 137° 58' E, 22 January 1976, coll. M. Takahashi; one male and three females (IRSNB), JAPAN: Saitama Prefecture, Chichibu, 35° 59' 25" N, 139° 4' 35" E, 17 September 1982, coll. M. Takahashi. *Equus caballus*: 11 males and four females (IRSNB), BELGIUM, [Faculty of Medical Veterinary], 5 February 1968, coll. unknown; seven males and two females (IRSNB), BELGIUM, Brussels Capital Region, Uccle, 50° 48' 8" N, 4° 20' 21" E, 1959, coll. unknown. *Rupicapra rupicapra*: six males and four females (IRSNB),

SWITZERLAND, Ticino, Pizzo Campo Tencia Mountain, 46° 25' 47" N, 8° 43' 33" E, 6 July 1960, coll. G. Bouver. *Ovis aries*: two males and four females (IRSNB), BELGIUM, no other data; one male, ISRAEL, 25 January 1984, no other data; 30 males, 30 females, 10 male tritonymphs, 10 female tritonymphs, 10 male protonymphs, 10 female protonymphs, and 20 larvae (ZISP), ICELAND, 13 October 1992, coll. K. Skirnisson.

*C. texanus*: *B. taurus*: three males, four females, two male tritonymphs, one female tritonymph, three male protonymphs, one female protonymph, two larvae, SOUTH KOREA, Hoseo Region, South Chungcheong Province, Cheonan, cattle farm of the National Institute of Animal Science, July 2006, coll. G.-H. Suh; three males and two females, USA, other data unknown, coll. J. Mertens.

*Chorioptes mydaus*: *Mydaus javanensis* (BMNH 82.11.9.1): holotype female, two males, one female, and male protonymph paratypes (IRSNB), MALAYSIA, North of Borneo Island, Papar Papar, November 1882, coll. A. Fain. This species was collected from alcohol preserved host and therefore an occasional museum contamination from ruminants is possible but not likely (because ruminants are large and usually not preserved in ethanol as a bulk sample).

*Chorioptes panda*: *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*: holotype male (IRSNB), 13 males, 17 females, three male tritonymphs, four female tritonymphs, three male protonymphs, six female protonymphs, and three larva paratypes (IRSNB), FRANCE, Paris Zoo, originated from China, Yunnan, Se-Tchouan, July 1974, coll. M. Leclerc. *Ursus americanus*: two males and two female tritonymphs (IRSNB), UK, London Zoo, 26 March 1981, coll. Laurence.

*Chorioptes crewei*: Holotype and paratypes were originally described from *Cephalophus rufilatus* in Cameroon (Lavoipierre 1958, 1959); deposited at the Liverpool School of Medicine, Liverpool, UK but, probably, lost. No other specimens were collected since the original description. For this study, character states of *Ch. crewei* were derived from the original description.

#### Key to species of the genus *Chorioptes* (males)

- Opisthosomal lobes subquadrate in outline, subequal or slightly elongated. Bases of setae *h2* and *h3* situated close to each other. Setae *ps2* distinctly longer than *ps1*. Solenidion  $\varphi$ III subequal or longer than tibia III ... 2  
Opisthosomal lobes subtriangular in outline, 2 times longer than wide. Bases of setae *h2* and *h3* widely separated, situated on separate sublobes. Setae *ps1* at least 3 times longer than *ps2*. Tibia III 2.5 times longer than solenidion  $\varphi$ III ... *Ch. crewei* Lavoipierre 1958 (Fig. 12)
- Setae *h2* and *h3* narrowly lanceolate (7–9  $\mu$ m maximum wide) or slightly flattened (3 maximum wide), subequal or

longer than leg III excluding pretarsus. Setae *h2* distinctly longer than *ps2* and *h3*. Seta *f*III bifurcate, with weakly developed antero-ventral extension. Tarsus III excluding pretarsus 1.5–2 times longer than seta *e*III; tarsus III excluding pretarsus subequal or longer than seta *w*III ... 3

Leg III without pretarsus distinctly longer than setae *h2* and *h3*, which widely lanceolate (14–18 µm maximum wide). Setae *ps2* distinctly longer than *h2* and *h3*. Seta *f*III trifurcate with distinct antero-ventral extension. Setae *e*III and *w*III distinctly longer than tarsus III (specimens from multiple host species) or only slightly shorter than this tarsus (specimens from *C. crispus*) ... *Ch. bovis* (von Hering, 1845) (Figs. 5, 6, and 15d)

3. Setae *d1* and *e1* longer than 20 µm. Setae *h2* and *h3* narrowly lanceolate (7–9 µm maximum wide), longer than 160 µm. Tarsus I, including apical spur, 1.1–1.6 times longer than tibia I ... 4

Setae *d1* and *e1* 8–10 µm long. Setae *h2* and *h3* only slightly flattened (2–3 µm maximum wide), shorter than 140 µm. Tarsus and tibia I subequal in length .... *Ch. mydaus* Fain 1975 (Figs. 5 and 6)

4. Tarsus III straight. Setae *ps2* not thickened in comparison with *ps1*. Setae *ps2* 2.2–3 times longer than *ps1*. Tarsus I, including apical spur, 1.1–1.2 times longer than tibia I. Solenidion  $\varphi$ III maximum 1.2 times longer than respective tibia ... 5

Tarsus III slightly curved. Setae *ps2* slightly thickened as compared to *ps1*. Setae *ps2* 1.5–1.7 times longer than *ps1*. Tarsus I, including apical spur, 1.3–1.6 times longer than tibia I. Solenidion  $\varphi$ III 1.4–1.7 times longer than respective tibia ... *Ch. panda* Fain and Leclerc 1975 (Figs. 5 and 6, Fig. 15d)

5. Body length, including gnathosoma, 380–405 µm. Idiosoma 1.6–1.7 times longer than setae *h2* and *h3*, body 3–4 times longer than setae *cp*. Legs III excluding pretarsus about three times longer than setae *s*RIII. Apical spur of tarsus III curved, spur near seta *f*III base not developed ... *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov.

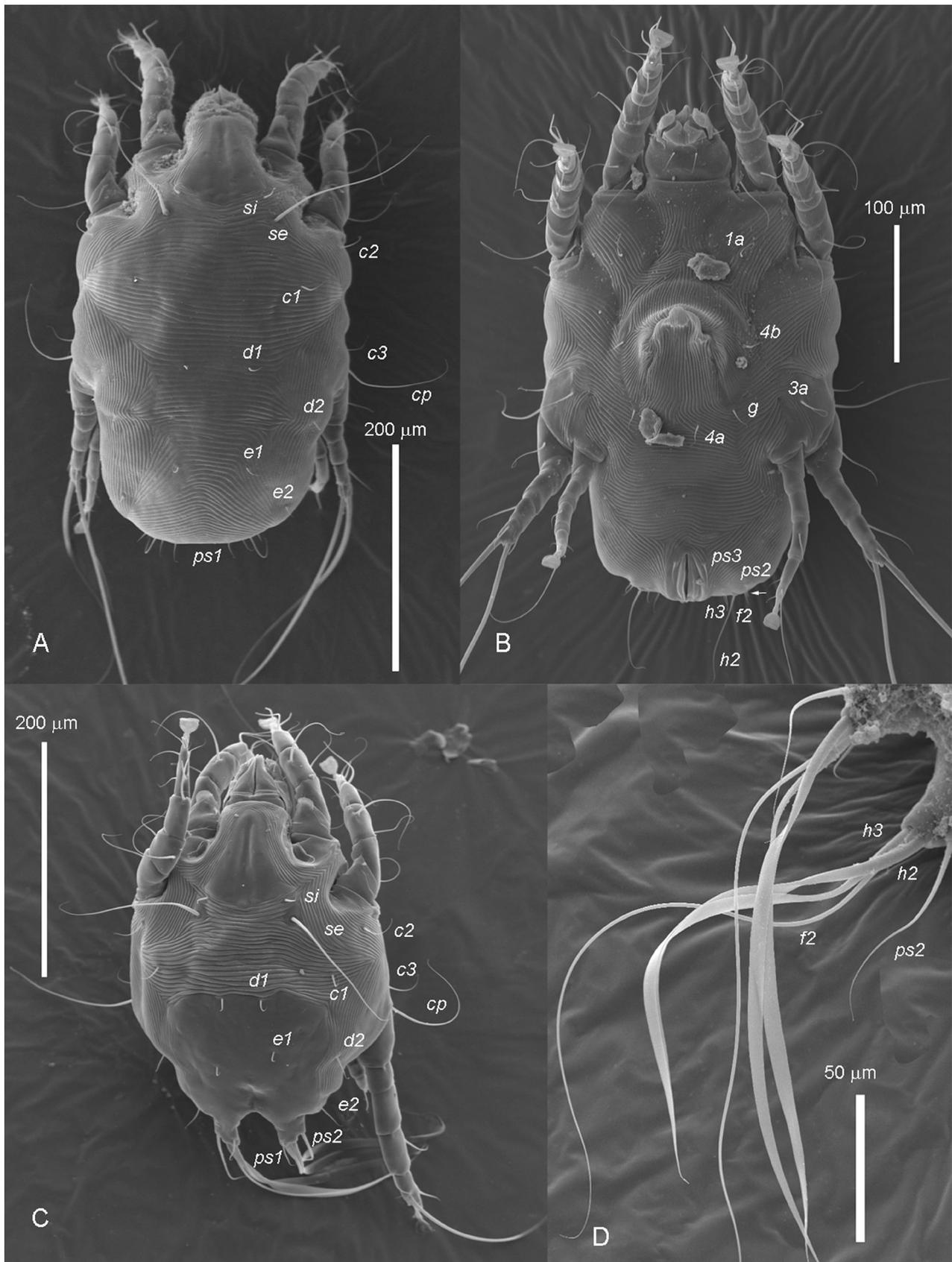
Body length, including gnathosoma, 220–295 µm. Idiosoma 1.3–1.4 times longer than setae *h2* and *h3*, body 1.3–1.6 times longer than setae *cp*. Legs III excluding pretarsus about 1.8–2 times longer than setae *s*RIII. Apical spur of tarsus III straight, spur near seta *f*III base small but distinct ... *Ch. texanus* Hirst 1924 (Figs. 5, 6, and 15d)

## Discussion

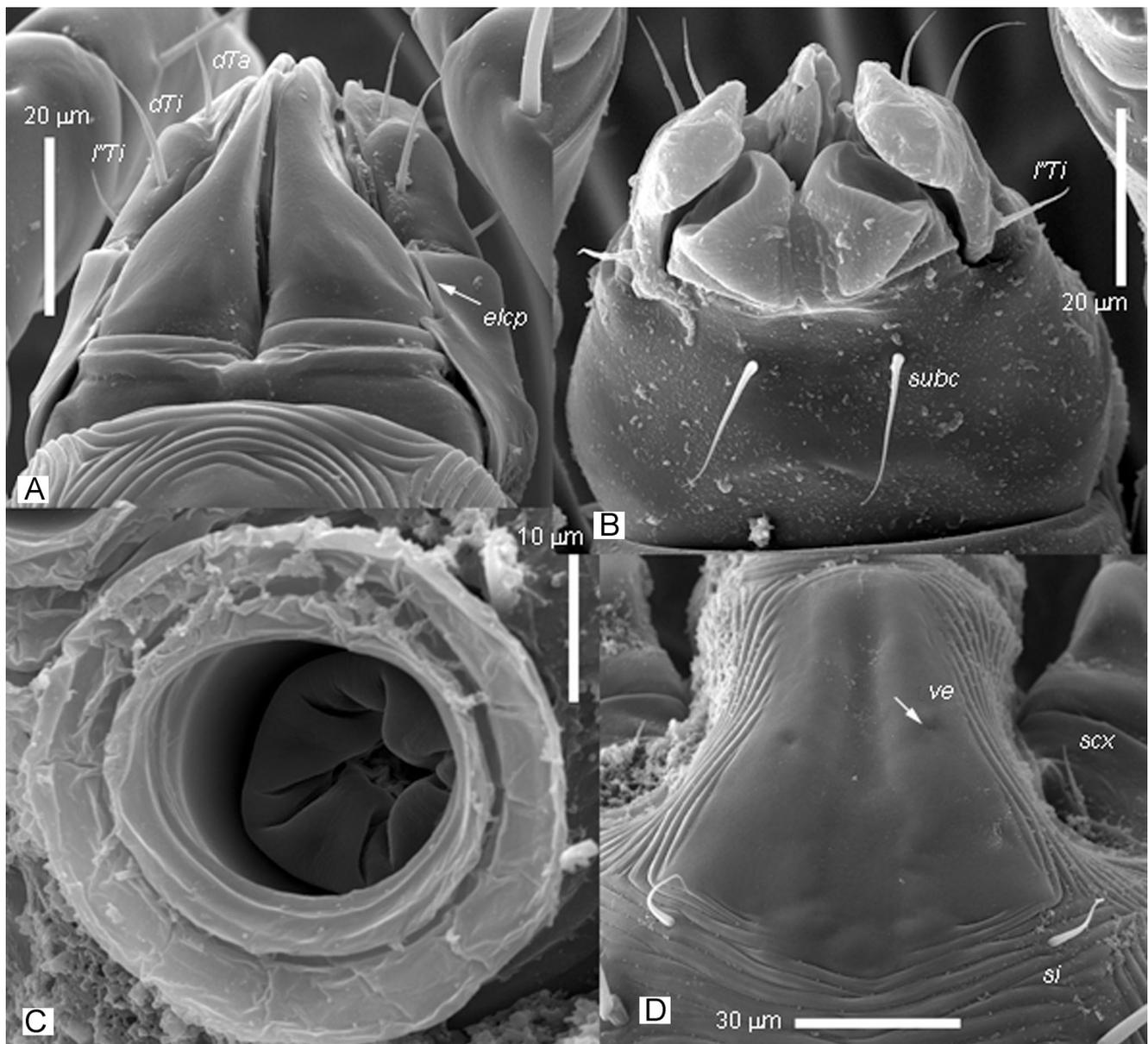
Different methods of species delimitations use different underlying assumptions and have different levels of accuracy. Here, we choose a Bayesian species delimitation as implemented in BPP because of its robustness and accuracy under

the absence of gene flow between species (Camargo et al. 2012; Satler et al. 2013). Applying statistical methods for species delimitation brings the objectivity to this process but also have the caveat of discovering species based purely upon degree of support under a particular species delimitation model (Bauer et al. 2011), which may be wrong if its assumptions are violated by data. For example, incomplete lineage sorting is not the only source of gene tree discordance (Degnan and Rosenberg 2009; Maddison 1997) as assumed by many coalescent-based species delimitation algorithms. Horizontal gene transfer, hybridization, recombination, and gene duplication and extinction may be responsible but these are rarely checked in empirical studies. Population genetics parameters required a priori for multispecies coalescent framework are rarely known with certainty. Furthermore, misspecification of the guide tree or failure to converge may also lead to wrong estimation of species boundaries, particularly in BPP. As a result, wrong statistical inference may lead to either underestimation or overestimation of real species richness. Independent lines of evidence (morphology, morphometrics, breeding experiments) are always necessary to validate these data. Even if statistical species delimitation is accurate, a sole use of these models to propose new taxonomical names makes them unavailable under Article 13.1.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, because it is not accompanied by a diagnosis based on intrinsic organismal properties (Bauer et al. 2011). On the other hand, species delimitation based on morphological evidence may be also error prone; it oftentimes depends on expert's opinion, and, therefore, is subjective. Our study is a synthesis of a rigorous Bayesian analysis (using a range of population genetics parameters and careful examination of convergence of reversible jump Markov chain Monte Carlo) and extensive comparative morphological study, involving all known species of *Chorioptes*. As such, this approach brings objectivity to the process of species description by utilizing a robust statistical species delimitation model and providing independent validation of this model through informative morphology-based diagnostic character states.

Our morphological analysis suggests that the genus *Chorioptes* includes six species. Of them, four species with available DNA sequences were validated by both comparison of genetic distances and Bayesian species delimitation analyses. In particular, the corrected genetic distances of *Ch. sweatmani* sp. nov. were the lowest among all other *Chorioptes* species (5.6–6.4 % vs 9.6–14.9 %), but still much larger than the infraspecific distances in the other sequenced *Chorioptes* species (0.2–0.5 %) (Table 2). Similarly, published study using ITS-2 reports pairwise genetic differences between *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov. and *Ch. texanus* as 9–11 % (Hestvik et al. 2007). These values were similar to those between *Ch. texanus* and *Ch. bovis* (7–11 %), which are relatively well-established species (Essig et al. 1999). For both



**Fig. 13** a–d SEM photos of *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov. **a** Female in dorsal view. **b** Female in ventral view. **c** Male in dorsal view. **d** Opisthosomal lobes of male in ventral view



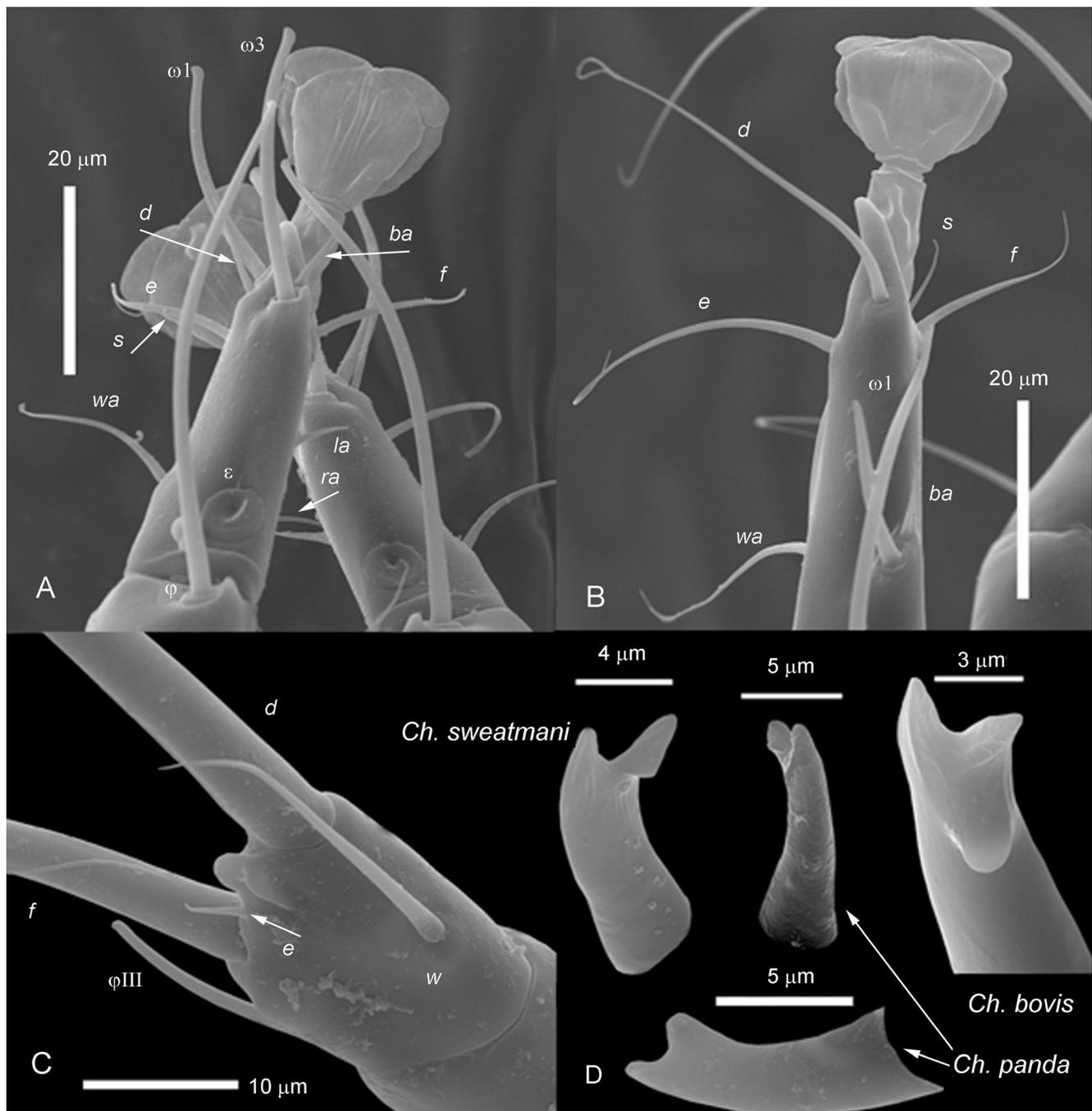
**Fig. 14** a–d SEM photos of *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov., male. **a** Gnathosoma in dorsal view. **b** Gnathosoma in ventral view. **c** Adanal sucker. **d** Propodonal shield

published and our datasets, the intra- and interspecific genetic distances did not overlap, indicating potential absence of gene flow between the analyzed *Chorioptes* species.

Bayesian species delimitation as implemented in BPP assumes that species are populations with the same population size ( $\theta$ ) and divergence time ( $\tau$ ) parameters; however, across species, these parameters vary because of the assumed absence of gene flow between them. The discordance between gene trees are explained by incomplete ancestral sorting and modeled via the multispecies coalescent (Rannala and Yang 2003; Yang and Rannala 2010). Because population size and divergence time are unknown for *Chorioptes*, we conducted our species delimitation analyses using three different sets of

population genetics priors (Leache and Fujita 2010). All these analyses strongly suggest that all *Chorioptes* species are valid (PP 0.58–0.99) (Table 3). The next favored species delimitation models involving *Chorioptes* had a substantially lesser support. For example, for the conservative analysis, favoring fewer species (the large population size and small root age priors:  $\theta \sim G(1, 10)$ ,  $\tau_0 \sim G(2, 1000)$ ), the next favored species delimitation model was the model joining *Ch. sweatmani* and *Ch. texanus* to a single species. The posterior probability for this model was 0.01 versus 0.58 for the “best” model treating these putative taxa as separate species (Table 3).

Published ITS-2 phylogeny of *Chorioptes* (Hestvik et al. 2007) differs from our inference by the position of *Ch. bovis*.



**Fig. 15** a–d SEM photos of *Chorioptes sweatmani* sp. nov. **a** Tarsi I of female in dorsal view. **b** Tarsi II of female in dorsal view. **c** Tarsus III of female in ventral view. **d** Setae *f*/III of male

The ITS-2 tree places this species, albeit with a low support, as a basal lineage to a clade including *Ch. panda*, *Ch. texanus*, and *Ch. sweatmani*. In contrast, in our phylogeny, *Ch. bovis* forms a monophyletic group with *Ch. texanus* and *Ch. sweatmani* (BS 85 PP 0.760 (MrBayes) PP 0.96 (\*BEAST); Fig. 1a), so the entire assemblage includes parasites of domestic and wild artiodactyl hosts (except for *Ch. bovis* which also parasitizes horses).

Mites of the genus *Chorioptes* are parasites of various artiodactyls (families Bovidae, Cervidae, and Camelidae). *Psoroptes*, the sister group taxon of *Chorioptes*, includes parasites of bovid artiodactyls, suggesting that Artiodactyla was the ancestral hosts for *Chorioptes*. *E. caballus* is the only known perissodactyl host of these mites, although some other species of *Equus* were successfully infected in the lab (Table 6). Parasitism of *Chorioptes* spp. on carnivores is

probably secondary. These mites are known from a few wild Asian carnivores (*Ailuropoda*, *Ursus*, and *Mydaus*). *Chorioptes* spp. from carnivores are morphologically close to mites of the *Ch. texanus*+*Ch. sweatmani* clade and probably diverged from the common ancestor inhabiting ruminants. It is interesting that *Chorioptes* spp., being widely distributed on ruminants, are absent on their main predators of the families Canidae and Felidae but parasitize some ursids and badgers. It could be hypothesized that parasitic mites of the genus *Otodectes* (Psoroptidae) living in ear auricles of these carnivores are better competitors and can prevent colonization of their hosts by *Chorioptes*.

Among *Chorioptes* spp. associated with herbivorous hosts, *Ch. bovis* was recorded from Artiodactyla (12 species) and *E. caballus*, *Ch. texanus* is known from artiodactyls (6 species), whereas *Ch. crewei* and *Ch. sweatmani* were recorded from a single artiodactyl host species each (Table 6). The wide host ranges and worldwide distributions of the former two species can be explained by their associations with domesticated hosts. When spreading into new areas with domesticated hosts, these mites could also attack wild ruminants. It is also possible that ancestrally *Chorioptes* were not strictly host-specific because many different artiodactyl species can graze together (e. g., in African savannas) offering the opportunity for cross-species infestation. This hypothetical scenario can be seen in the sarcoptic mange mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei* (Acariformes: Sarcoptidae). This species switched from humans (principal host) to domesticated animals and from them to wild hosts (Fain 1968). In Australia, these shifts occurred contemporary—*S. scabiei* co-dispersed to this continent along with humans or domesticated animals and then shifted to the wild wombats (Skerrat et al. 2002).

Although both *Ch. bovis* and *Ch. texanus* were recorded from multiple host species, only *Ch. bovis* is known from horses. At the same time, *Ch. texanus*, parasitizing domesticated ruminants in different parts of the world, nevertheless, had never been recorded from equids. It is possible, but unlikely due to significant morphological differences, that some mites from horses were mistakenly identified as *Ch. bovis*. It is possible that either *Ch. bovis* secondarily transferred to horses from domesticated ruminants (hypothesis I) or was ancestrally associated with equids (hypothesis II). *Ch. bovis* strongly differs morphologically from all other species of the genus (Table 5) and it may be the earliest branch of the genus, as suggested by ITS-2 data (Hestvik et al. 2007). However, the latter hypothesis (II) is less likely because our molecular inference suggests that *Ch. bovis* is a monophyletic group with other artiodactyl-inhabiting species (Fig 1a, b).

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kindly confirmed the presence of the *C. texanus* holotype in the collection of BMNH. We are grateful to Alexey Mirolubov (ZISP) for his help with the scanning electron microscope. The molecular work of this study was conducted in the Genomic Diversity Laboratory of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. This research was supported by a grant from the Belgian Federal Science Policy cofinanced by the Marie Curie actions of the European Commission, by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Grant No 13-04-00608a) to AVB, the US National Science Foundation (NSF DEB-0613769) to Barry O'Connor, and by the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology research incentive fund.

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