

**UNIONICOLA (IRIDINICOLA) BOTSWANIANA N. SUBGEN., N. SP. (ACARI:  
UNIONICOLIDAE) FROM FRESHWATER MUSSELS IN BOTSWANA**

**Malcolm F. Vidrine<sup>1</sup>, Zeréne Lötter<sup>2</sup>, Jo G. Van As<sup>2</sup>, Myriam Bastian-Stanford<sup>1</sup> and Sheila R.  
Hazelton-Robichaux<sup>1</sup>**

1. Division of Sciences, Louisiana State University at Eunice, Eunice, LA 70535, USA (email: mvidrine@lsue.edu);

2. Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

**ABSTRACT** - *Unionicola (Iridinicola) botswaniana* n. subgen., n. sp. (Hydrachnida: Unionicolidae) is described from freshwater mussels, *Mutela zambesiensis* and *Aspatharia pfeifferiana*, from Okavango River, Botswana, Africa. The new species is a unique mite with distinctive female genital field anatomy and leg chaetotaxy. This new mite extends our understanding of the morphology and biogeography of the genus in Africa. It further extends our knowledge of host selection and host-specificity among African *Unionicola*.

**Key words** - Acari, Hydrachnida, Unionicolidae, freshwater mussels, biogeography, Botswana.

Abstract # 7

Internat. J. Acarol. 32(3): 297-300.