

## A new species of the genus *Gaeolaelaps* Evans & Till (Acari: Mesostigmata: Laelapidae) from China\*

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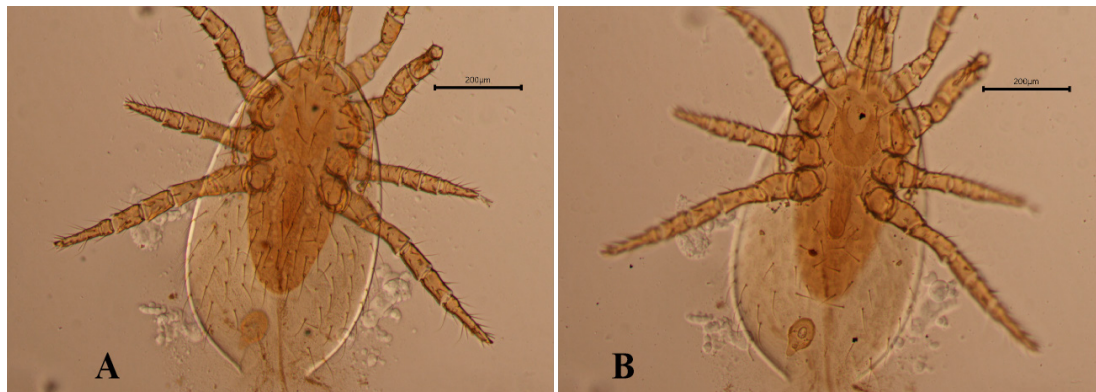
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As members of the family Laelapidae, *Gaeolaelaps* species are generally acknowledged from litter and edaphic habitats (Joharchi 2019; 2022). The taxonomic history of *Gaeolaelaps* is complicated and long-term (Halliday & Lindquist 2007). *Gaeolaelaps* was first defined by Evans and Till (1966) and used to be a subgenus of *Hypoaspis* (Halliday & Lindquist 2007; Beaulieu 2009). Prior to this paper, the genus *Gaeolaelaps* consisted of more than 120 described species (Nemati & Mohseni 2013; Kazemi 2020), with 20 species reported from China (Yan *et al.* 2018). Herein, a new species of *Gaeolaelaps* Evans & Till, 1966, *Gaeolaelaps* **sp. nov.** is described from adult females collected in soil under the *Osmanthus* trees in Jiangxi Province, China.

This new species can be recognized by having a smaller dorsal shield, covering only about 40 percent of dorsal idiosoma, with 39 pairs of moderately long and smooth common setae (Fig. 1A); anterior margin of sternal shield with deep V-shaped depression and pointed setae *st2* and *st3* (Fig. 1B).



**FIGURE 1.** Phase-contrast micrographs of *Gaeolaelaps* “d” **sp. nov.** (female)—A. Dorsal idiosoma B. Ventral idiosoma; Scale bars = 200μm.

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