

**Systematics and ecology of *Naiadacarus nepenthicola*, a new species of acaridae  
(Acari: Astigmata) inhabiting the pitchers of *Nepenthes bicalcarata* hook. f. in  
Brunei Darussalam**

**ABSTRACT**

A new species, *Naiadacarus nepenthicola*, is described from adults and deutonymphs collected in Belait District, Brunei Darussalam, from the fluid-filled pitchers of *Nepenthes bicalcarata* Hook. f.. This constitutes the first record of a member of the family Acaridae inhabiting *Nepenthes* pitchers. It is quite probably that *N. nepenthicola* feeds on decomposing leaves that fall into the pitchers as well as on decomposing insects trapped by pitchers. Dispersal is accomplished through phoresy on *Campanotus schmitzi* Staercke, an ant that nests exclusively in the hollow tendrils of *N. bicalcarata* pitchers.