

## ***Cryptopeniculus nigrosetus* n.g., n. sp. (Coleoptera: Ptinidae) from the Namaqualand region of South Africa**

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### **Abstract**

*Cryptopeniculus nigrosetus*, a new genus and species of spider beetle from Namaqualand, western South Africa, is described. It is characterized by a unique pronotal vestiture composed of a “V” shaped flocculant pale brown setal tuft covering most of the dorsal surface that is partially obscured by an outer layer of thick darker colored setae forming two peaks. Characteristics differentiating this new genus and species from all others are discussed and illustrated and the probable biology hypothesized.

**Key words:** spider beetle, Ptinidae, Ptininae, Namaqualand, South Africa, new species

### **Introduction**

The southern African insect fauna is perhaps one of the best known compared to the many other regions in this continent. In spite of the work, there are still a great number of undescribed species in certain groups such as the Ptinidae, no doubt due in part to the incredibly high diversity of the habitats in this region and the likely corresponding effect on faunal diversity. Most of the previous taxonomic work on spider beetles of this area is limited to isolated species descriptions of *Ptinus* Linnaeus by Boheman (1851), Péringuey (1888, 1899, 1904), Pic (1898, 1903, 1908) and Bellés (1992), who raised the Pic *Ptinus* subgenus *Eutaphrimorphus* to generic level. In contrast to these works, Bellés (1996) revised the species of *Dignomus* Wollaston and described the only species known from South Africa. Earlier he also reviewed and summarized the knowledge of the gibbiine spider beetles (Bellés, 1985), a group of globular-shaped flightless species with a center of distribution in Africa and the circum-Mediterranean region. Irish (1996a) expanded on this work with his review of *Stethomezium* Hinton, *Meziomorphum* Pic, and *Lepimedoziium* Bellés, describing several new species and restoring a subspecies to specific status. He