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A New Species of Frog (Strabomantidae: *Pristimantis*) From Peru With Comments on its Ectoparasites (Acari: Trombiculidae)

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Oral Presentation O1.4

**A NEW SPECIES OF FROG (STRABOMANTIDAE: *PRISTIMANTIS*) FROM PERU
WITH COMMENTS ON ITS ECTOPARASITES (ACARI: TROMBICULIDAE)**

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In South America, frogs are rarely reported with epidermal infections. Trombiculid mites, commonly known as chiggers, are the most common parasites of frogs in North and South America and are typified by a parasitic larval stage. Adult stages of these mites are predaceous and free living in the soil. A large series of a new species of frog, obtained from the Río Abiseo National Park in northern Peru, was heavily infected with Trombiculid mites. This gave us the opportunity to determine any relation among the number of infections and body regions, size, sex, and age. No relationships were found among the number of infections and the sexes or ages of frogs. Larger females were 3.85 times more likely to be infected than small females, but no difference was seen between the numbers of infections in different sized males. The throat was shown to have significantly more infections than other body region, and the legs had fewer infections than other regions. Images of the mite were collected using a scanning electron microscope and compared to drawings of previously described mites in order to determine the genus. A unique character was found in the mites, which excluded the genus of mite commonly known to infect frog in South America. This study is portion of Alan Brus's research honors project.