



A new chigger mite (Acari: Prostigmata: Trombiculidae) from Central Europe

STANISLAV KALÚZ

Institute of Zoology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, SK-845 06, Bratislava, Slovakia.

E-mail: stanislav.kaluz@savba.sk

Abstract

A new chigger mite *Kayella pannonica* sp. n. (Acari: Prostigmata, Trombiculidae) is described from thermophilous oak-hawthorn forest of SW Slovakia.

Key words: chigger, new species, pannonica, Slovakia

Introduction

The status of the genus *Kayella* Vercammen-Grandjean, 1960 is still not clearly defined and needs a revision (Kudryashova, 1998; Brennan & Goff, 1977). Some synonymic changes were made and some species placed in the genus *Helenicula* were synonymized (Nadchatram & Traub, 1971). The main attributes, distinguishing the genus *Kayella* from *Helenicula* Audy, 1954 are based on well defined morphological characters: the genualae II and III are present in *Helenicula* (Kudryashova *et al.*, 1978), while in *Kayella* are absent; another obvious difference is that the sensillary bases on scutum are close together in *Helenicula* but set apart in *Kayella*. Kudryashova (1998) published two East Palearctic *Kayella* species from Ukraine and Turkmenistan. This paper describes another one from Central Europe. All measurements are given in micrometers (μm).

Diagnosis of *Kayella*

It is characterised: SIF = 4B (5B)–N(B)–3–2(1)–1–0–0–1–0–0–0–0; fsp=7–7–7; (PT', PT'', ST, pST)=N; Genualae II and III absent, tibia III present, sensillary bases apart, SB longer than diameter of globose sensillae, mastisetae absent.

Kayella pannonica sp. n.

Description. Larva (holotype). SIF – 4B–N–3–2–0–0–1–0–0–0–0; fsp = 7–7–7; fPp = B–B–BBB; fCx = 1–1–2; fSt = 2–2; PL >AM>AL; fDS = 2H–8(9)–8–4(5)–6(7)–6–4–2–2 = 42–44; VS = 36–41; NDV = 78–85; Ip = 569 – (average = 641) – 707.

Dorsum (Fig. 1). Scutum subquadrate, slightly wider than long, with AL, AM, PL and two sensillae. Big scutal puncta cover prevailing part of scutum. Sensilla expanded, its head usually globose; stem shorter than head and serrate in distal part. Sensilla 30 long, globose head 14 wide. Oval eyes (2 + 2) in ocular plates, eyes laterally above PL.