

## Taxonomic status of *Veithia* Oudemans, 1941 and redescriptions of two species described by Oudemans (Acari: Smarididae)

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### Abstract

*Veithia* Oudemans, 1941, previously considered *nomen dubium*, is revisited and confirmed a junior synonym of *Fessonia* Heyden, 1826. *Fessonia schneideri* (Oudemans, 1941) **comb. nov.** and *Fessonia assmuthi* (Oudemans, 1941) **comb. nov.** are redescribed from type specimens and compared with related species.

**Key words:** Smarididae, *Fessonia*, *Veithia*, synonym, India, Italy

### Introduction

The genus *Veithia* was erected by Oudemans (1941) for two new species, *V. schneideri* (type) from San Remo, Italy and *V. assmuthi* from Bombay, India. This was the last paper by Oudemans, whose work appeared to have been affected by his advanced age and health. The descriptions of the species and the genus were very brief, uncharacteristic of his style during that period. No illustrations were provided and no comparisons with related genera were made to support the erection of this genus. Grandjean (1947) rightly recognized these problems. Southcott (1961) agreed with Grandjean on these and considered this genus invalid, citing Article 25(c) (1) (ICZN 1953), but in a note added in proof (Southcott 1961: 434), he realized the genus was valid and he therefore considered the genus and its two species *nomina dubia*.

I examined the type specimens of *V. schneideri* and *V. assmuthi* in the Oudemans Collection during a visit to the National Museum of Natural History in Leiden. Among the archives, I also found unpublished original drawings of both species made by Oudemans. It is obvious to me that *Veithia* Oudemans, 1941 is a junior synonym of *Fessonia* Heyden, 1826. However, Oudemans (1941) clearly could not have seen the paper by Womersley and Southcott (1941) who redefined *Fessonia* in its current sense. The two species by Oudemans are herein redescribed.