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

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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)–1–0–0–0–0–0–0–0; fsp=7–7–7; (PT´, PT´´, ST, pST)=N; Genualae II and III absent, tibiala III present, sensillary bases apart, SB longer than diameter of globose sensilla, mastisetae absent.

*Kayella pannonica* sp. n.

Description. Larva (holotype). SIF – 4B–N(5B)–3–2(1)–1–0–0–0–0–0–0; fsp=7–7–7; (PT´, PT´´, ST, pST)=N; Genualae II and III absent, tibiala III present, sensillary bases apart, SB longer than diameter of globose sensilla. Dorsum (Fig. 1). Scutum subquadrate, slightly wider than long, with AL, AM, PL and two sensilla. 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.