



***Trichoribates* and *Jugatala* (Acari: Oribatida: Ceratozetidae) from the Central and Southern Alps, with notes on their distribution**

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Abstract

The present paper deals with five species of oribatid mites of the genus *Trichoribates* Berlese, 1910 and two species of the genus *Jugatala* Ewing, 1913 from high mountains of the Central and Southern Alps. A new species, *Trichoribates scilierensis* **sp. nov.**, collected from South Tyrol (Italy) is described in detail on the basis of adults. In addition, supplementary descriptions and illustrations of six known species, *Trichoribates monticola* (Trägårdh, 1902), *T. novus* (Sellnick, 1928), *T. punctatus* Shaldybina, 1971, *T. trimaculatus* (C. L. Koch, 1835), *Jugatala angulata* (C. L. Koch, 1839) and *J. cribelliger* (Berlese, 1904) are presented. *Trichoribates punctatus* is recorded for the first time in Central Europe. The status of old generic names as well as the validity of some species are discussed. The synonymy of *T. oxypterus* (Berlese, 1910) is rejected and its validity retained. The possible synonymy of *Jugatala rotunda* Willmann, 1953 with *J. angulata* is discussed. The distribution of all studied species is discussed.

Key words: Ceratozetoidea, new species, biogeography, Austria, Italy, Alps

Introduction

The oribatid mite genus *Trichoribates* was established by Berlese (1910) with *Murcia trimaculata* C. L. Koch, 1835 as type species. The generic name *Murcia* was first used by C. L. Koch (1835) to encompass several species, which presently belong to different genera. Later, several other authors (e.g. Banks 1895, 1896, 1909; Trägårdh 1902; Hall 1911; Ewing 1909, 1913; Sellnick 1928) used various names for the species of this genus, such as *Claviceps*, *Jugatala*, *Murcia*, *Notaspis*, *Oribata*, *Oribatella*, *Oromurcia* etc., some of which are now considered to be invalid names in the systematics of oribatid mites. Recently, Subías (2004, 2008) “reintroduced” the generic name *Murcia* in his list of the world oribatid mites, considering it as a senior synonym of *Trichoribates*. However, he did not provide any comment on his concept, and the necessity of the re-use of the old genus name is still unclear.

Previously “*Murcia*” encompassed not only species of *Trichoribates*, but also representatives of several other genera, such as *Scheloribates*, *Humerobates*, *Ceratoppia*, *Ctenobelba* etc., which are currently assigned to various families. Therefore, in our opinion, it is meaningless to adopt the name *Murcia* again, and to give it priority over the name of *Trichoribates*. This view is shared by Weigmann (2006). Furthermore, according to article 23.9 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (2000), it is inadmissible to use the name *Murcia* since it is a *nomen oblitum*, and has not been used for many years. Thus, in this paper, we accept *Trichoribates* as a valid genus.