



Two new Palearctic mite species of the family Cunaxidae (Acari: Prostigmata)

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Abstract

Two new mite species from SW Slovakia, viz. *Armscirus cyaneus* **sp. nov.** and *A. cerris* **sp. nov.** (Acari: Prostigmata, Cunaxidae) are described and figured. A key to females of the genus *Armscirus* of the world is given.

Key words: Bdelloidea, Cunaxinae, *Armscirus*, taxonomy, identification key

Introduction

The genus *Armscirus* was erected by Den Heyer (1978) who also introduced a new classification system for the family Cunaxidae (Den Heyer, 1980, 1981). Later Smiley (1992) presented recent knowledge on the family Cunaxidae of the world. A new classification with more new taxa, including new subfamilies, appeared in his monographic work. Since then four new species of *Armscirus*, all from Pakistan (Muhammad & Chaudri, 1991) including two from Punjab (Bashir & Afzal, 2005; Bashir *et al.*, 2008) were added to the genus. This paper brings the descriptions of two new *Armscirus* species from Central Europe.

Material and methods

The specimens studied were collected from soil samples (under grass, *Thymus serpyllum*) in South Slovakia (120–310 m above sea level), and mounted in Swann's medium. The drawings were produced using the light microscopy and then enhanced with computer infrastructure. All measurements (stated in micrometers - μm) were done by standardized microscopy ocular micrometer. The measurements of the specimens studied include also the range of values: minimal value (measurements of holotype in parentheses) – average value of all specimens measured – maximal value. The length of body was measured from the anterior margin of pronotal dorsal shield to the caudal margin of opisthosoma and the width just behind the posterior margin of pronotal shield. The leg segments were measured: coxa - in the axis vertical to connection line of coxa and trochanter, in other leg segments the length of their dorsal side. The dorsal setal notation follows the more generally accepted nomenclature of Kethley (1990), used by Sionti & Papadoulis (2003a,b), Den Heyer (2006) and the later changes suggested for the Bdelloidea by Den Heyer & Castro (2008a).

The abbreviations mean: Bf—basifemur, Tf—telofemur, Ge—genu, Ti—tibia, Ta—tarsus, Tita—palp tibiotarsus, ap—apophysis, spls—spine-like seta, peo—pe organ; asl—attenuate solenidion, bsl—blunt-ended solenidion, tsl—terminal solenidion, sts—simple tactile seta; mst—microseta; T—smooth trichobothrium. The scale in each figure means 100 μm .