Taxonomy of European Damaeidae (Acari: Oribatida) III.
Species of the *Kunstidamaeus tenuipes* (Michael, 1885) group, with a description of *Kunstidamaeus fraterculus* n. sp. from East Slovakia

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Abstract

Modern redescriptions and new diagnoses of three species of genus *Kunstidamaeus*, belonging to the “tenuipes” group—*K. tenuipes* (Michael, 1885), *K. granulatus* (Willmann, 1951), *K. nivalis* (Kulczynski, 1902) are given. Another species of this group, *K. fraterculus* n.sp., is described, based on individuals from Dreveník hill in East Slovakia. The group is characterized by relatively short, at least partly barbed, slightly club-shaped sensillus.

**Key words:** oribatid mites, *Kunstidamaeus*, new species, chaetotaxy

Introduction

The recently proposed and defined genus *Kunstidamaeus* Miko, 2006 is characterised by the presence of typical set of 2 prodorsal tubercles (*Ba, La*), presence of propodolateral apophyse *P* developed usually as a tip or tubercle perpendicular to body, presence of well developed ventral tubercle *Va* and presence of usually strongly bent spiniae adnatae (Miko, 2006; Miko & Mourek, 2008). Interlamellar setae *in* are much shorter than sensillus, tibial and genual setation formula is 4-4-3-3 (solenidia not included), solenidia of genua I-III are accompanied with companion seta *d* and ventral accessory seta *v2* is absent on all tarsi. Genus comprises of several species, which have been grouped to three species groups (Miko & Mourek, 2008): “lengersdorfi” group with type species *K. lengersdorfi* (Willmann, 1932), *K. nidicola* (Willmann, 1936) and *K. diversipilis* (Willmann, 1951); “tecticola” group with *K. tecticola* (Michael, 1888) and *K. longisetosus* (Willmann, 1953); and finally “tenuipes” group with *K. tenuipes* (Michael, 1885), *K. granulatus* (Willmann, 1951) and *K. nivalis* (Kulczynski, 1902).

The aim of present paper is to provide modern redescriptions of the species of “tenuipes” group, which is characterised by somewhat shorter and usually slightly clavate sensillus covered often by dense spinuli or hairs. Species of this group - unlike in the rest of the genus - have often spiniae adnatae shorter and only slightly bent or almost straight (only *K. nivalis* has spiniae adnatae strongly bent, almost U-shaped). The species *K. tenuipes* and *K. granulatus* were studied on mounted material from Strenzke Collection in Frankfurt Senckenberg Museum, and Willmann’s material from Zoologische Staatsammlung in Munich. The rare and for long time not found classical species *K. nivalis* from Slovak Tatra Mountains is redescribed in more detail on the basis of recently collected individual (Starý, 1996), and material collected by Frenzel from Willmann’s collection. Description of a new species, found during faunistic studies in East Slovakia, belonging to this group is given as well, together with discussion of potential relations to other known species.