



***Neocoprozercon europaeus* gen. nov., sp. nov., the first member of the family Coprozerconidae (Acari: Mesostigmata) in the Palaearctic Region**

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Abstract

A new genus and species, *Neocoprozercon europaeus* gen. nov., sp. nov., are described, based on adults and deutonymphs collected from soil detritus and animal excrement in a cave in the Čierna hora Mts., Western Carpathians, Slovakia. Amendments to the diagnosis of the family Coprozerconidae Moraza & Lindquist, 1998 and a key to the genera are presented.

Key words: Acari, Mesostigmata, new taxa, Coprozerconidae, *Neocoprozercon*

Introduction

The monotypic family Coprozerconidae was established by Moraza & Lindquist (1998) on the basis of mites collected from faeces of the wood rat *Neotoma floridana magister* Baird in Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, U.S.A. This family is also mentioned in Lindquist *et al.* (2009) and Romero (2009), but other informations on this taxon are available.

During a long-term survey of caves of the Čierna hora Mountains in Slovakia (Mock 2000; Mock *et al.* 2004, 2005, 2009; Kováč & Krchová 2007; Necpálová *et al.* 2009) several interesting arthropods were found — troglophilous oribatids (Luptáčík & Miko 2003), the palpigrade *Eukoenia spelaea* (Peyerimhoff, 1902) (Kováč *et al.* 2002, 2004), and a new millipede species *Mecogonopodium carpathicum* Mock & Tajovský, 2008 (Mock & Tajovský 2008). Another interesting finding in the caves of the Čierna hora Mountains is the occurrence of the new species of mite, a member of a new genus, from the family Coprozerconidae, described in this paper.

Material and methods

Mites were extracted from detritus using Berlese-Tullgren funnels. Specimens were mounted on microslides using the chloral hydrate-based Swan's medium. All measurements, given as micrometres, were taken from photographs using the AxioVision 40LE application (v. 4.5). Setal notation and measurements of structures follows Moraza & Lindquist (1998).

***Neocoprozercon* gen. nov.**

(Figs 1–9)

Type species: *Neocoprozercon europaeus* sp. nov.

Diagnosis. Both sexes with idiosomal shields weakly sclerotised, without well-defined outlines. Dorsal idiosoma with podonotal shield in female or podonotal and opisthonotal shields in male and deutonymph, hypertrichous