

## New mites of the genus *Holoparasitus* Oudemans, 1936 from northern Austria and Karavanke (Acari: Parasitidae)

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### Abstract

A new mite species, *Holoparasitus rhombogynialis* **sp. nov.** (Acari: Parasitidae) is described from Karavanke (Slovenia-Austria border). *H. hemisphaericus* (Vitzthum, 1923) is redescribed, including a description of the previously unknown male from the type locality in northern Austria. Both species are considered to be members of the *Holoparasitus hemisphaericus* species-group, which is newly defined. *Ologamasus absoloni* Willmann, 1940 is synonymised with *H. hemisphaericus*, and the female of *H. intermedius* (Holzmann) *sensu* Micherdziński is synonymised with *H. cornutus* Juvara-Bals & Witaliński.

**Key words:** Acari, Parasitidae, *Holoparasitus*, new species, new synonyms, redescription, mite taxonomy, Karavanke

### Introduction

A well known problem with early taxonomic descriptions is that many "known" species are difficult or even impossible to identify without close examination of the type material. Sometimes, as in the case of *Holoparasitus hemisphaericus* (Vitzthum, 1923), the description and drawings are misleading. According to the original description based on a single female (Vitzthum, 1923), the key character of the species is a prominent spur on the distal margin of trochanter IV. As mentioned in an earlier paper (Witaliński & Skorupski, 2002), we examined this type specimen and concluded that *H. micherdzinskii* Witaliński, 1981 is a junior synonym of *H. hemisphaericus* (Vitzthum). Further, it was found that the peculiar spur on Tr IV was an artefactual interpretation of the normal cuticle of the segment when observed from the side. Therefore, attempts at finding this character and identifying *H. hemisphaericus* have been unsuccessful. Fortunately, new material collected from the type locality of the species (Waidhofen a.d. Thaya, Austria) made it possible to examine and describe both sexes. It has also become clear that a new,