



Taxonomy of European Damaeidae (Acari: Oribatida) II. *Porobelba weigmanni* n. sp. (Oribatida, Damaeidae), from East Slovakia, with comments on other known species of the genus

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Abstract

Porobelba weigmanni n. sp. (Oribatida: Damaeidae) is described, based on individuals found in the Pieniny Mountains of North-East Slovakia. It differs from previously known species of the genus by having long, hypertrophied notogastral setae c_1 , and by the presence of one pair of prodorsal tubercles. A new diagnosis of the genus *Porobelba* is presented. Two species—the American species *P. parki* Jacot, 1937 and the poorly described European species *P. robusta* Mihelcic, 1955—are removed from the genus, based on absence of a porose area on the notogaster, presence of propodolateral apophyses and other characters. A determination key for the three remaining species is presented.

Key words: *Porobelba parki*, *Porobelba robusta*, oribatid mites, chaetotaxy, type-species

Introduction

The oribatid mite genus *Porobelba*, in the globally distributed family Damaeidae, has been long represented in Europe only by its broadly distributed type-species, *Porobelba spinosa* (Sellnick 1920), which has subtle, ceratiform spinae adnatae on the notogaster. Very similar individuals from the Iberian Peninsula, but lacking the spinae adnatae, were initially treated as a variation (Grandjean 1954), but subsequently were attributed to a different species—*P. grandjeanica* Subias, 1977.

During faunistic investigations of the oribatid mite fauna in North-East Slovakia, in 1987–1988, two specimens of another species of this genus were found in litter of a mixed forest in Pieniny National Park. Body form and the presence of an unpaired area porosa on the notogaster show without doubt that the species belongs to *Porobelba*, but other morphological characters do not fall into the range of variability of *P. porosa*. This new species is described herein and dedicated to my good colleague and friend, Prof. Gerd Weigmann from Berlin, with many thanks for long-term fruitful collaboration.

Description of the new species required broader considerations of the genus. Study of a mounted individual of the American species *P. parki* Jacot, 1937, from the Strenzke Collection (Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, Germany), resulted in deleting of this species from *Porobelba*. Based on the original description and figures, *P. robusta* Mihelcic, 1955, apparently does not share the generic characters and its placement in *Porobelba* is rejected as well. A new diagnosis of the genus and a determination key for the three remaining known species of the genus are given.

The terminology and general approach of F. Grandjean, as modified by Norton (1977), and Miko and Travé (1996) were used.