



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 redescrptions 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 spinae 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 genera 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 redescrptions 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 spinae adnatae shorter and only slightly bent or almost straight (only *K. nivalis* has spinae 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 Staatssammlung in Munich. The rare and for long time not found classical species *K. nivalis* from Slovak Tatra Mountains is redescrbed 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.