TO THE PROBLEM OF VALIDITY AND SYNONYMY OF HIRSUTIELLA ZACHVATKINI (SCHLAGER, 1948) (TROMBICULIDAE)

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Abstract. By analysis of literature sources and especially of a critical evaluation of conclusions of Verecmen-Grandjean's (1981) paper the author comes to the conclusion, that the specific name zachvatkini (Hirsutiella zachvatkini, Trombiculidae) is the valid name for the rejected secondary homonym Trombicula multiseta Willmann, 1944. At the same time, the data on terrn typica and zoogeographic distribution of this species are specified.

One of the recent publications (Verecmen-Grandjean 1981) gives prominence again to the problem of restoration of the name Trombicula multiseta Willmann, 1944, which has been twice rejected as secondary junior homonym (Wharton and Fuller 1952, Daniel 1957). This proposal cannot be accepted because it does not conform to the rules of the International code of Zoological nomenclature (1964), which have been set down to maintain the stability and universality of scientific names of animals. Following these rules and considering only the published data, we shall try to clarify once again the above problem. All facts referring to it are presented below in chronological order:

Ewing (1943) — description of Acaricus multiseta sp. n.
Willmann (1944) — description of Trombicula multiseta Willmann, 1944 is rejected as junior secondary homonym and is replaced by a new name T. willmanni Wharton et Fuller, 1952.
Jenkins (1948) — the genus Acaricus becomes the synonym of the genus Trombicula, resulting in the appearance of the name T. multiseta (Ewing, 1943).
Wharton and Fuller (1952) — the name T. multiseta Willmann, 1944 is rejected as secondary homonym and is replaced by a new name T. willmanni Wharton et Fuller, 1952.
Daniel (1957) — the identity of the species T. multiseta Willmann, and T. zachvatkini Schil. is established. The latter is proposed as the only suitable synonym to replace the name T. multiseta, rejected as secondary homonym. T. willmanni Wharton et Fuller 1952 becomes the synonym of T. zachvatkini.
Verecmen-Grandjean (1960) — a new classification of the family Trombiculidae up to the level of genus is proposed. The problem of restoration of secondary homonym on the basis of the new classification has not been brought out in literature. On the contrary, the name T. zachvatkini has been accepted and used after 1957 to date by the majority of researchers (Beron 1973, Daniel 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965, Edler 1969, Hushcha 1959, 1962, 1972, Kepka 1964, 1969, Kolebina 1966, Kudryashova 1967).
Schlagter and Vysotskaya (1970) — a new genus Hirsutiella with the type species Trombicula zachvatkini Schluger, 1948 is described. (The status of Hirsutiella
3. There are considerable discrepancies in the numerical indicators for larvae from Czechoslovakia published previously (Daniel 1957) and given in the Table with reference to Daniel (1958) (in that paper no biometrical data are given at all). It is indicated what material has been studied from Germany. There is a reference to the paper by Willmann (1944). In this paper the description of T. multisetosa is based on larvae collected "aus dem Schneeberggebiet, terra typica Hoheberg bei Wolfsfelde, Kreis Habelschwerdt". The mountain range Schneeberg (= Śnieżnik) is situated on the border between Czechoslovakia and Poland, the locality of collection is named Wyściea near Miedzygorze and Habelschwerdt corresponds to Bystrić Kłodzki, which was found today in the territory of Poland north-west of the mentioned border on the river Nysa Kłodzka (see Raspon 1951). Besides, the measurements indicated in the original text do not agree with those given in Verecmmen-Grandjean’s paper, and the issue concerning the material and its quantity studied by him remains to be open, raising doubts about the reliability of the data and localities presented. The mentioned errors are enough to doubt the data presented in Verecmmen-Grandjean’s (1981) paper as they cannot serve as proof for the identification of the species and erection of subspecies taxons.

While analysing the above material as well as the articles 52, 53, 57, 59 and 60 of the International code of Zoological nomenclature (London, 1964), in consideration of facts to article 59(b) accepted by the XVII International Zoological Congress (Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature, vol. 29, Part 2, 1972, 75–78; vol. 29, Part 4, 1972: 180–189) we must state the following:

1. The name Trombicula multisetosa Willmann, 1944 can never be restored as it has been rejected as secondary junior homonym in 1962 and 1957. On the basis of Article 59(b) and subdivision (1) “junior secondary homonym rejected prior to 1940” it cannot be reinstated. In Article 59(c) it is stated that it is necessary to restore a name rejected as a secondary homonym after 1960, if there are grounds for it.

2. So far as no synonyms of T. multisetosa had been originally known, the rejected homonym was replaced by a new name T. willmanni Wharton et Fuller, 1952 (Article 60).

3. Later (Daniel 1957) Trombicula zachvatkinii Schlüger, 1948 was recognized as a first available synonym of the rejected homonym and this name was proposed as replacement for T. willmanni Wharton et Fuller, 1952, because the priority was on its side — Article 60(a) and (b).

4. T. zachvatkinii is a valid substituting name for the rejected secondary T. multisetosa Willmann, 1944.

5. In case that T. zachvatkinii is proved not to be the synonym of T. multisetosa, the valid substituting name can only be T. willmanni — Article 59(b), subdivision (11). There are no such proofs at present.

К ПРОБЛЕМЕ ВАЛИДНОСТИ И СИНОНИМИКИ ВИДА HIRSUTIELLA ZACHVATKINI (SCHLUGER, 1948) (TROMBICULIDAE)

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Резюме. Изучение литературных источников и в особенности путем критической оценки материала (см. статьи 52, 53, 57, 59, 60) и отсутствие в работе Вержинского к заключению, что специфическое название zachvatkinii (Hirsutiella zachvatkinii, Trombiculidae) является недопустимым для отсутствующих гомонимов Trombicula multisetosa Willmann, 1944. Одновременно уточняются данные относительно "терра типика" и зоогеографического распространения этого вида кровососов.


—. The bioecology and developmental cycle of some chiggers (Acariformes, Trombiculidae) in the Slovak Carpathians, Čs. parasitologie 8: 81—118, 1963.


—. Seasonal changes in the infestation of rodents with larvae of some trombicule. Voprosy ekologii 8: 41—42, 1962. (In Russian.)

—. The state of knowledge of chigger mites (trombicule) of the fauna of the Ukrainian SSR. Parasitit, parasitozi a shliaka iikh likvidatsii 1: 195—210, 1972. (In Russian.)


—. The present state of knowledge on chigger mites (Acariformes, Trombiculidae) of the fauna of the USSR. Itogi nauki i tekhniki. VINITI AN USSR, ser. zoodarazhitel'nost' 5: 5—112, 1979. (In Russian.)


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