

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

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Abstract. By analysis of literature sources and especially of a critical evaluation of conclusions of Vercammen-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 terra typica and zoogeographic distribution of this species are specified.

One of the recent publications (Vercammen-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 *Acariscus multiseta* sp. n.

Willmann (1944) — description of *Trombicula multiseta* sp. n.

Schluger (1948) — description of *Trombicula zachvatkini* sp. n.

Jenkins (1948) — the genus *Acariscus* 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 junior 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* Schl. 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*.

Vercammen-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).

Schluger and Vysotskaya (1970) — a new genus *Hirsutiella* with the type species *Trombicula zachvatkini* Schluger, 1948 is described. (The status of *Hirsutiella*

is not touched upon in this paper as it does not affect the solution of the problem discussed).

Kolebina and Vercammen-Grandjean (1971) — it is proposed to restore the name *Trombicula multisetosa* Willm. as valid on the basis of article 59(c) of International code of Zoological nomenclature, 1961 and to consider it as the species distinguished from *T. zachvatkini*. However, the studies establishing the identity of these species (Daniel 1957) are ignored and no facts are presented which would prove the opposite. This proposal has not been practically accepted by most specialists.

Vercammen-Grandjean (1981) — it is proposed again to restore the name *T. multisetosa* for specimens coming from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Albania, and those distributed on the Pacific coast in Siberia(?) to include in the species *T. zachvatkini*, with subspecies "brennanum" Feider, 1970" from Romania and "steineri" Kepka, 1966" from Turkey. In this species are also included specimens from Bulgaria. As an evidence, mean arithmetic values of measurements of shield, Ip and number NDV are presented. Unfortunately these values cannot be accepted as they are based on insufficient material of no statistical significance and abound in numerous errors. The author's inaccuracies undoubtedly affect the correctness of this conclusions and are as follows.

1. The statement of the distribution of *T. zachvatkini* in Siberia on the Pacific coast is incorrect. This Palaearctic species has a characteristic European type of distribution and probably Central Europe should be considered the centre of its distribution. There are reports on its findings in the territory of North Kazakhstan, and this is not contradictory to the above said information about the type of its range. The author of this article had a chance of looking over in detail the xerox copy of working notes and drawings of the material studied by Dr. P. H. Vercammen-Grandjean, where two preparations identified by E. G. Schluger are visible*. This fact helped explain Dr. Vercammen-Grandjean's erroneous concept of the distribution of *T. zachvatkini*. The said preparations bear the following information: "Arkhangelsk Region, 30. VIII. 1956, *Cl. glareolus*". In the title of the notes this information is given in P. H. Vercammen-Grandjean's own handwriting correctly as far as the date and host are concerned, but incorrectly as regards the locality. Instead of the Arkhangelsk Region, which lies in the north of the European part of the USSR and borders on Karelia in the west, it is written: "Surmiami, Siberian Pacific Coast, Red Army Zone". It is obviously an error, the more so because no findings of *T. zachvatkini* have been ever recorded at the said locality. This has been also proved by a detailed inventory of the chigger fauna of the USSR (Kudryashova 1979) and indirectly by the host's distribution — *Cl. glareolus* ranges in the east as far as the middle part of the Ob river, Altai and Sayan Mts. (Kulik 1973). The disclosed error automatically contradicts P. H. Vercammen-Grandjean's concept based on it, according to which the "Siberian" specimens belong to other species than the "European" specimens do. It is also expedient to note that "terra typica" of *T. zachvatkini* is the Leningrad Region.

The second substantial error has been made by P. H. Vercammen-Grandjean during the calculation of NDV in six larvae studied. The resulting sum included the number of VS and the double number of DS. Consequently, instead of the true value NDV = 134 — 166 (mean 152), erroneously NDV = 214 — 270 (mean 243) is indicated. 2. There is no publication containing the name "brennanum" Feider, 1970", proposed as a subspecies of *T. zachvatkini*.

* The author wishes to thank Dr. M. Daniel for the given opportunity to see the xerox notes which he had received from Dr. P. H. Vercammen-Grandjean.

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). 4. It is not 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 Hofeberg bei Wölfelsgrund, Kreis Habelschwerd". The mountain range Schneeberg (=Sněžník) is situated on the border between Czechoslovakia and Poland, the locality of collection is named Wysiecza near Miedzygórze and Habelschwerdt corresponds to Bystrica Kłodzka, to be found today in the territory of Poland northwest of the mentioned border on the river Nysa Kłodzka (see Raspond 1951). Besides, the measurements indicated in the original text do not agree with those given in Vercammen-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 Vercammen-Grandjean's (1981) paper as they cannot serve as serious 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 the supplements 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 1952 and 1957. On the basis of Article 59(b) and subdivision (1) "junior secondary homonym rejected prior to 1961 is forever rejected and 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 zachvatkini* Schluger, 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. zachvatkini* is a valid substituting name for the rejected secondary homonym *T. multisetosa* Willmann, 1944.
5. In case that *T. zachvatkini* 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. Путем анализа литературных источников и в особенности путем критической оценки выводов, сделанных в работе Веркаммена-Гранжана (1981) автор приходит к заключению, что специфическое название *zachvatkini* (*Hirsutiella zachvatkini*, *Trombiculidae*) является валидным названием для отвергнутого гомонима *Trombicula multisetosa* Willmann, 1944. Одновременно уточнены данные относительно „terra typica“ и зоогеографического распространения этого вида краснотелки.

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