

MICROTROMBIDIUM HIRSUTUM MIHELČIČ, 1958, A NEW HOMONYM
OF *MICROTROMBIDIUM HIRSUTUM* WOMERSLEY, 1945
(ACARI : PARASITENGONA : MICROTROMBIDIIDAE)

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SUMMARY : *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958 is a junior homonym of *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Womersley, 1945. The name, *Microtrombidium mihelcici* nom. nov. is proposed for *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958.

RÉSUMÉ : *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958 est junior homonyme de *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Womersley, 1945. Le nom, *Microtrombidium mihelcici* nom. nov. est proposé pour *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958.

In his revision of the Microtrombidiinae of Australia and New Guinea, WOMERSLEY (1945, p. 312) described *Microtrombidium hirsutum* sp. nov. for a single specimen from Morialta, South Australia. WOMERSLEY (1945) also gave figures of crista, eye, palpal tibia and tarsus and tibia of foreleg, and dorsal setae of this new species (Fig. 10 F-I, p. 311). One year later, SOUTHCOTT (1946) rediscovered *M. hirsutum* Womersley, 1945 from Waterfall Gulley in the Mt. Lofty Ranges, South Australia. The identity of this species was confirmed by comparing the adult specimen with the type of *M. hirsutum* Womersley, 1945 (SOUTHCOTT 1946). SOUTHCOTT (1946) also commented on the biology of this species and described the egg and nymph of this species (pp. 312-312, fig. 1.B-H, Fig. 2 and 3). Larval instar was absent in *M. hirsutum* Womersley, 1945 as the nymph was found to emerge directly out the egg (SOUTHCOTT 1946).

MIHELČIČ (1958, pp. 253-255) described *Microtrombidium hirsutum* sp. nov. from Central Europe

(Austria). He provided figures of dorsal idiosoma, crista, palp and dorsal seta of *M. hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958. It appears that MIHELČIČ (1958) was not aware that the specific name *hirsutum* was preoccupied, as he did not mention the revision of Microtrombidiinae of Australia and New Guinea by WOMERSLEY (1945). In his critical list of Trombidiidae in Europe, ROBAUX (1967) listed *M. hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958. It appears that ROBAUX (1967) was not aware of this either.

A comparison of the description by WOMERSLEY (1945) and MIHELČIČ (1958) reveals that *M. hirsutum* Womersley, 1945 and *M. hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958 are different species. They can readily be differentiated using the following key (measurements in micron) :

1. Body 2100 long, 1160 wide ; leg I 1875 long ; leg IV 1425 long ; tarsus I 405 long, 210 high ; dorsal idiosomal setae 40-70 long ; palpal tibia with one accessory claw posterior to tibial claw ; anterior comb on dorsal palpal tibia with 6 spines ; ventral to

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- dorsal combs, no spines present on internal side of palpal tibia *M. hirsutum* Womersley, 1945
- Body 1160 long, 550 wide ; leg I 630 long ; leg IV 580 long ; tarsus I 150 long, 120high ; dorsal idiosomal setae 30 long ; palpal tibia with two accessory claws posterior to tibial claw ; anterior comb on dorsal tibia with 3 spines ; ventral to dorsal combs, a comb consisting of 3 spines present on internal side of palpal tibia *M. hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958

The name *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958 is, therefore, a junior homonym of *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Womersley, 1945.

According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (article 53, law of homonymy), *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958 as a junior homonym of an available name, must be rejected and replaced.

In December 1987, when I was in China, I informed Dr. F. MIHELČIČ the homonymy. Unfortunately I have received no answer since then, nor have I seen a new name proposed for the preoccupied.

Based on these, a name *Microtrombidium mihelcici* nom. nov. is proposed for *Microtrombidium hirsutum* Mihelčič, 1958. The specific epithet honors Dr. F. MIHELČIČ, who discovered and described the species.

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