

***Machuella hippy* sp. n. (Acarina, Oribatida, Oppiidae) from Austria**

Ritva Niemi & Elena W. Gordeeva

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Machuella hippy sp. n. is described from Austria, Vienna Leopoldsberg. It differs from other species of *Machuella* in the two chitinous lines on the notogaster, in the extremely long curled epimeral hairs and in the lack of epimeres III and IV.

Ritva Niemi, Zoological Museum, University of Turku, SF-20500 Turku, Finland

E. W. Gordeeva, Institute of Pedology and Photosynthesis, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Pushchino, Moscow region 142 292, USSR

The genus *Machuella* Hammer, 1961 is easy to recognize by the extremely long hairs on the epimeres, all directed towards the middle, and the chitinous lines on the notogaster. The type species is *Machuella ventrisetosa* Hammer, 1961 by original designation.

The genus *Machuella* seems to be more common in the tropical than in the non-tropical region. The type species is Neotropical, *M. africana* Mahunka, 1978 is Ethiopian, and *M. pyriformis* Hammer, 1968, *M. lineata* Hammer, 1973, *M. zehntneri* Mahunka, 1977 are Indo-Pacific. Hammer (1971, 1979) described two varieties from the Indo-Pacific area. Mahunka (1977) has considered one of them, *M. ventrisetosa robusta* Hammer, 1971, as a subspecies, while the other, *M. v. plicata* is without status (according to ICZN § 16). *M. draconis* Hammer, 1961, *M. capitata* Kulijev, 1967 and *M. hellenica* Mahunka, 1982 are Palaearctic. We consider *M. ventrisetosa robusta* at least a subspecies, but closer study may give a different result. The species described below is the fourth Palaearctic species.

We found this new species in the oribatid collection of the Swedish Museum of Natural History.

Methods

In description, chaetotaxic notation and other characters, we follow Balogh's (1972, 1983) terminology, also indicated in Fig. 1. Both illustrations have been made with the aid of a camera lucida attached to a slide microscope.

***Machuella hippy* sp. n.**

Holotype: Male from Austria, Vienna, Leopoldsberg, 25.8.1960, Mf. 859, collector unknown, deposited in Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden. — Paratype: 1 male with the same data and deposition as the holotype.

Diagnosis: On the grounds of the extremely long curled epimeral hairs, the two notogastral lines and the lack of epimeres III and IV, *Machuella hippy* is well distinguished from all other species of *Machuella*. Besides the combination of characters stated it can be distinguished from other species of this genus with two notogastral lines; from *M. zehntneri* by the notogastral lines and by sensilli, from *M. pyriformis* by the notogastral lines, by the posterior part of the

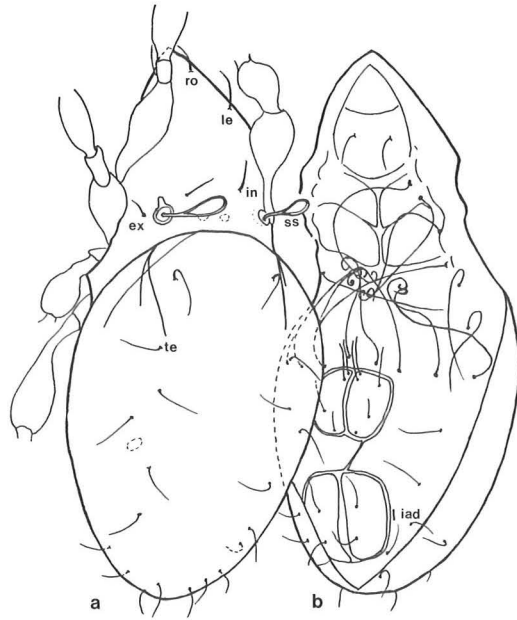


Fig. 1. *Machuella hippy* sp. n. — a dorsal side, b ventral side.

propodosoma and by the form of the notogaster and from *M. ventrisetosa robusta* by genital hairs, sensilli and bothridia.

Description: Dorsal and ventral side, Fig. 1. Colour light brown. Total length 233 μ m, breadth of notogaster 113 μ m.

Prodorsum. Rostrum pointed. Rostral hairs (*ro*) reaching to the top of rostrum. Lamellar hairs (*le*) reaching to the points of insertion of hairs *ro* and nearer to hairs *ro* than interlamellar hairs (*in*). Hairs *in* situated at the level of the upper corner of the bothridia and their length half of their mutual distance. Hairs *ro*, *le* and *in* smooth and thin. Between bothridia two small, light spots. Bothridia round with small denticle on the dorsal corner. Sensilli (*ss*) capitate, stalk slender and head without cilia. Exobothridial hairs (*ex*) very short and thin.

Notogaster. Oval form. Two thin chitinous lines decurrent from anterior margin not reaching hairs *te*. Lateral ones shorter than medial ones. Notogastral hairs thin and smooth. The transparent membrane covers the base of coxa III and IV, forming the sharp tooth between the legs.

Ventral side. Epimere I and II present but epimere III and IV absent. Ten pairs of epimeral hairs curled and very long. First three pairs of genital hairs longer than the other two. 1 pair aggenital, 2 pairs of anal and 3 pairs of adanal hairs long. Pori *iad* in adanal position.

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