

FOUR NEW HOMONYMS IN ERYTHRAEIDAE (ACARI: ACTINEDIDA)

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Abstract.— *Leptus villosus* Mihelčič, 1964 is a junior secondary homonym of *Leptus villosus* (Berlese, 1910); *Leptus errabundus* **nom. nov.** is proposed as a replacement name for *L. villosus* Mihelčič, 1964. *Leptus calvatus* Mihelčič, 1958 is a junior primary homonym of *Leptus calvatus* Willmann, 1951; *Leptus incertus* **nom. nov.** is proposed as a replacement name for *L. calvatus* Mihelčič, 1958. *Leptus diversus* Mihelčič, 1958 is a junior primary homonym of *Leptus diversus* Mihelčič, 1958; *Leptus furibundus* **nom. nov.** is proposed as a replacement name for *L. diversus* Mihelčič, 1958. *Leptus diversus* var. *variatus* Mihelčič, 1958 is raised to the species rank. *Abrolophus longipes* (Schweizer and Bader, 1963) **comb. nov.** is a junior primary homonym of *Abrolophus longipes* (Willmann, 1951) **comb. nov.**; *Abrolophus baderi* **nom. nov.** is proposed as a replacement name for *A. longipes* (Schweizer and Bader, 1963).



Key words.— Acari, Parasitengona, Erythraeidae, homonymy, new names, new combinations.

TAXONOMY

Leptus errabundus **nom. nov.**

for *Leptus villosus* Mihelčič, 1964 (non *Leptus villosus* (Berlese, 1910))

Berlese (1910: 348) described *Achorolophus villosus* from Greece, a species characterised, in part, by short idiosomal setae (“... densissime pilis curtis ...” op. cit.). Khot (1964: 686) provided the first redescription of this species, giving its locality in India (“Himachal Pradesh, 13,500 ft”) and placing it in the genus *Leptus*. Unfortunately, the type specimen of *Achorolophus villosus* Berlese, 1910 has been lost (Castagnoli and Pegazzano, 1985: 457 and 458). Mihelčič (1964: 296) described *Leptus villosus* (from Austria), which differs from *Achorolophus villosus* Berlese, 1910, as well as from *Leptus villosus* sensu Khot, 1964 in having very long idiosomal setae (65–125 μm , as opposed to 39–54 μm in *L. villosus* sensu Khot, 1964). Because *Leptus villosus* sensu Mihelčič cannot be considered synonymous to *Leptus villosus* (Berlese, 1910), therefore *Leptus villosus* Mihelčič, 1964 is replaced with *Leptus errabundus* **nom. nov.**

Leptus incertus **nom. nov.**

for *Leptus calvatus* Mihelčič, 1958b (non *Leptus calvatus* Willmann, 1951)

Willmann (1951: 151) described *Leptus calvatus* from Austria. Mihelčič (1958b: 46) described *Leptus calvatus* from Spain. The descriptions suggest that the authors were dealing with two different species (Mihelčič did not give

a figure). In contrary to *L. calvatus* s. Willmann 1951, *L. calvatus* s. Mihelčič 1958b has light spots on dorsal side of idiosoma, similar to those in *L. trimaculatus* (Rossi, 1974), but more numerous (more than three) “... Sehr ähnlich *L. trimaculatus* Herm. [sic!], besitzt aber mehrere haarlose Flecke und nicht nur drei, wie die Vergleichsart ...” op. cit.: 46); hence *Leptus calvatus* Mihelčič, 1958b becomes a junior primary homonym of *Leptus calvatus* Willmann, 1951 and is given the name *Leptus incertus* **nom. nov.**

Leptus furibundus **nom. nov.**

for *Leptus diversus* Mihelčič, 1958b (non *Leptus diversus* Mihelčič, 1958a)

Mihelčič (1958a: 281) described “*Leptus diversus* sp. nov.” from Spain (without illustration). Mihelčič (1958b: 46) described “*Leptus diversus* n. sp.”, also from Spain (without figures). The descriptions of *Leptus diversus* in these two papers suggest that they refer to two different type specimens (different dimensions, different place of collection) and most likely to separate species (evident differences inferred from the descriptions). *Leptus diversus* s. Mihelčič 1958b has, for example, longer dorsal setae (68 μm) and much shorter crista metopica (306 μm) than *L. diversus* s. Mihelčič 1958a (43 μm and 595 μm respectively). The date of publication of the paper in “Eos” (15 Oct. 1958) is earlier than that of “Sitzungsberichte Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien” (no date given, so I assume 31 Dec. 1958), which means that *Leptus diversus* Mihelčič, 1958b is a junior primary homonym of

Leptus diversus Mihelčič, 1958a. *Leptus diversus* Mihelčič, 1958b is therefore replaced with *Leptus furibundus* nom. nov.

Leptus variatus Mihelčič, 1958b stat. nov.

"*Leptus diversus* n. sp. var. *variatus* var. nova", originally described from Spain (Mihelčič, 1958b: 46), is here raised to the rank of species. This variety differs from *L. diversus* s. Mihelčič 1948b (now *L. furibundus* nom. nov.) in body length (2500 μm), tarsus I length/height ratio (1.85), length of tibia I (340 μm) and crista metopica (510 μm), in contrary to the latter species (1292 μm, 3.53, 221 μm and 306 μm respectively).

I am of the opinion, that in such a poorly known mite family as Erythraeidae, the creating of any taxa of a rank lower than species is speculation, and makes greater nomenclatural confusion.

Abrolophus baderi nom. nov.

for *Abrolophus longipes* (Schweizer and Bader, 1963) comb. nov.
(non *Abrolophus longipes* (Willmann, 1951) comb. nov.)

Willmann (1951: 150) described *Balaustium longipes* from Austria. Schweizer and Bader (1963: 289) described *Balaustium longipes* from Switzerland. Both of them are now placed in the genus *Abrolophus* Berlese, 1891 sensu Southcott, 1961. The metric characters and the illustrations of aspidosoma in both papers show that they deal with two separate species. Accordingly, *Abrolophus longipes* (Schweizer and Bader, 1963) comb. nov. becomes

a junior primary homonym of *Abrolophus longipes* (Willmann, 1951) comb. nov. The name *Abrolophus baderi* nom. nov. is therefore proposed as a replacement name for *Abrolophus longipes* (Schweizer and Bader, 1963) to honour the junior author.

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