

## First record and redescription of a little known mite species *Denheyernaxoides brevirostris* (Canestrini, 1886) (Acari: Prostigmata: Cunaxidae) from Ukraine

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### Abstract

The genus *Denheyernaxoides* Smiley, 1992 is recorded for the first time from Ukraine. The female of *Denheyernaxoides brevirostris* (Canestrini, 1885) is redescribed, based on specimens from the Crimea. The larva and deutonymph of this species are described for the first time. The author considers the subfamily Denheyernaxoidinae Smiley, 1992 as a separate tribe (Denheyernaxoidini **stat. nov.**) in the subfamily Cunaxoidinae Den Heyer, 1979. A key to the Palaearctic cunaxid genera of the subfamily Cunaxoidinae Den Heyer, 1979 is provided.

**Key words:** Acari, Cunaxidae, new record, Crimea, taxonomy, key

### Introduction

*Eupalus brevirostris* was described by Giovanni Canestrini (1885, 1886)<sup>1</sup>. Berlese (1894, 1897) redescribed this species and provided drawings of the palp, chelicera and dorsal view of the body. Thor and Willmann (1941), as well as Baker and Hoffmann (1948), used Berlese's brief description and drawings of the aforementioned species. In addition, in their work Baker and Hoffmann (1948) state that the name *Eupalus* Koch, 1838 was preoccupied by *Eupalus* Gistel, 1834 and proposed the name *Cunaxoides* as a *nomen novum*.

Lin (2001) transferred *Cunaxoides brevirostris* (Canestrini, 1886) from *Cunaxoides* Baker & Hoffmann, 1948 to the genus *Denheyernaxoides* Smiley, 1992 (Smiley 1992) and redescribed the female of this species based on specimens from Fujian Province (China).

During my study of the Crimean acarofauna some specimens of *D. brevirostris* were collected. Due to the proximity to the type locality, the description of Crimean specimens of *D. brevirostris* has certain taxonomic interest. Smiley (1992) created the subfamily Denheyernaxoidinae Smiley, 1992 with the single species *Denheyernaxoides martini* Smiley, 1992. Den Heyer (2009) considered aforementioned subfamily as a junior synonym of the subfamily Cunaxoidinae Den Heyer, 1979. Later on, Den Heyer and Castro (2009) considered *Denheyernaxoides* as a genus in the tribe Cunaxoidini Den Heyer, 1980, probably based on the palpal chaetotaxy of Chinese specimens of *D. brevirostris*. Based on published data and results of my study of Crimean specimens of *D. brevirostris* I consider the subfamily Denheyernaxoidinae as a separate tribe in the subfamily Cunaxoidinae based on a complex of differential characters mentioned below.

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1. In accordance with Thor and Willmann (1941) and Baker and Hoffmann (1948) *Eupalus brevirostris* was described during 1885 (Canestrini, 1885). However, Canestrini in his paper of 1886 (Canestrini, 1886) described *E. brevirostris* as a new species. Also, Berlese (1894) referred to Canestrini's paper only of 1886. The author has not had access to Canestrini's paper of 1885.