

Description of the deutonymph of *Uroobovella minima* (Acarina, Mesostigmata, Uropodina)

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MAŠÁN, P. & FENĎA, P. 2002: Description of the deutonymph of *Uroobovella minima* (Acarina, Mesostigmata, Uropodina). *Entomol. Probl.* 32(2): 169–170. – The deutonymph and adults of uropodine mite *Uroobovella minima* (C. L. KOCH, 1841) is described and illustrated. The subadults of *U. minima* have not previously been described. This rare edaphic species was found in moist soil of the peaty habitat in North Slovakia. First record from the territory of Slovakia.

Key words: Acarina, Uropodina, *Uroobovella minima*, deutonymph, adults, description

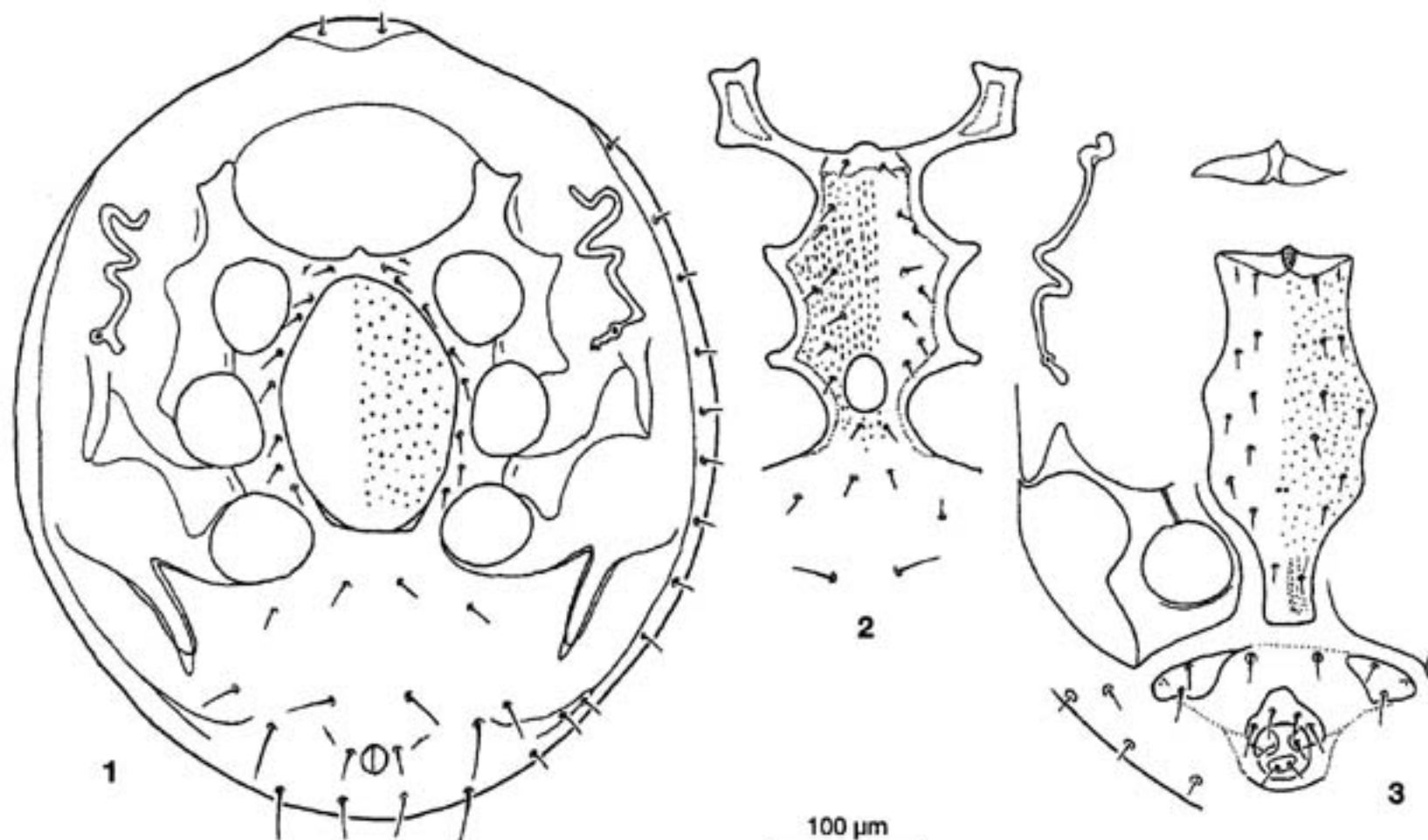
Introduction

The adult stage of *Uroobovella minima* (C. L. KOCH, 1841) has only recently become known (WILLMANN 1951, HIRSCHMANN & ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL 1962). The description of its subadults is still missing. In the latest wider revision of genus *Uroobovella* BERLESE, 1905 (HIRSCHMANN 1989), there are no data about the developmental stages of this species. *U. minima* is a species that freely lives in soil substrates. According to WIŚNIEWSKI (1993), it prefers

meadow biotopes and is distributed throughout Europe (e.g. in Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary from neighboring countries).

Uroobovella minima (C. L. KOCH, 1841)

Description. Female (Fig. 1). Length of idiosoma 444–515 µm. Body almost oval, dorsally considerably vaulted. Marginal shield narrow and posteriorly entire. Surface of dorsal and ventral shields smooth without



Figs 1–3: *Uroobovella minima* (venter): 1 – ♀, 2 – ♂, 3 – deutonymph.

expressive surface structure. Only genital shield with small structural pores. Body setae needle-like, smooth and variously long. Sternal (8 pairs) setae shorter. Genital shield relatively large, oval and with widely oval anterior margin. Endometapodal structural lines absent. Ventral lines present. Leg grooves present and its tibial part margins more considerably sclerotized. Peritremes long and praestigmatic sections with several curves.

Male (Fig. 2). Length of idiosoma 440–469 μm . Dorsal and ventral sides similarly formed to female. Surface of sternal area densely structured by minute oval pores. Sternal setae in number of 9 pairs. Postgenital area between coxae of 4th pair of legs considerably narrowed. Operculum oval.

Deutonymph (Fig. 3). Length of idiosoma 410 μm . Dorsal side smooth and without surface structure. Body setae needle-like, smooth and short. Sternum vase-like and with spotted pores on surface, with 9 pairs of v-setae and narrowed posterior margin. Ventrianal shield considerably reduced (originally triangular) and in form of 3 smaller sclerites. Position of ventrianal setae: 4 on praeanal sclerite, 2 on each lateral sclerite and 2 on weakly sclerotized membrane. Metapodal shields with leg grooves. Peritremes medial S-curved and anteriorly with expressive coarse.

Study material. 7 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂, 1 deutonymph – 1st of July 1997, Nová Bystrica-Chmúra, Kysucké Beskydy mountains, northern Slovakia (DFS 6680). Found on peat bog in soil detritus and in moss.

Differential diagnosis. Altogether 4 species can be included into species group *U. minima* in Europe, due to differential diagnosis in the *Uroobovella* genus (HIRSCHMANN 1989). Among this species of *U. minima* group only deutonymph of *U. varians* HIRSCHMANN & ZIRNGIEBL-NICOL, 1962 is known. Mutual feature of *U. minima* and *U. varians* deutonymphs is occurrence of typical praeanal sclerite with 4 ventrianal setae. Expressive difference is in forming sternum and ventrianal shield. In the case of *U. varians*, posterior sternal margin is extended and ventrianal shield usually equably sclerotized and solid (Fig. 4).

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Fig. 4: *Uroobovella varians* (venter of deutonymph).

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