A NEW NAME FOR THE FEATHER MITE GENUS CHEILOCERAS TROUSSART, 1899 (ACARI: ASTIGMATA: FALCULIFERIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: A new substitute name Cheiloceratoidea nom. n. is proposed for the feather mite genus Cheiloceras Trouessart, 1899 (Acari: Falculiferidae), which is a junior homonym of Cheiloceras Frech, 1897 (Mollusca: Cephalopoda). It is shown that Cheiloceras taurus Trouessart, 1899 was originally designated by Trouessart (1899) as the type species of the mite genus Cheiloceras, while the subsequent designation of Cheiloceras cervus Trouessart, 1899 proposed by Trouessart (1916) much later and followed by recent authors (Atyeo and Gaud 1978) is illegitimate. New combinations for eight species included in the genus Cheiloceratoidea are as follows: Cheiloceratoidea ancoratum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. cervus (Trouessart, 1899) comb. n., Ch. corculatum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. foliatum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. megachelicum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. retusum (Trouessart, 1899) comb. n., Ch. serrulatum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., and Ch. taurus (Trouessart, 1899).

KEY WORDS: Feather mites, Pterolichoidea, Falculiferidae, taxonomy correction

DISCUSSION

The feather mite genus Cheiloceras (Pterolichoidea: Falculiferidae) was established by Trouessart (1899a) in the content of the “section” Pterolicheae (Sarcoptidae: Analginae), which incorporated in that period of acarology most feather mites presently belonging to the superfamily Pterolichoidea. As for all representatives of the family Falculiferidae, mites of the genus Cheiloceras currently including eight species are restricted to pigeons and doves (Columbiformes), and most species of this genus are known from fruit pigeons (Columbidae: Treroninae) distributed in the Indo-Malayan and Australian regions (Atyeo and Gaud 1978).

However this name Cheiloceras Trouessart, 1899 is a junior homonym of the generic name proposed by Frech (1897) for fossil ammonites (Mollusca: Cephalopoda). This fact was early found by malacologists and paleontologists, but remained unnoticed by acarologists; and a new name for the mite genus has not yet been proposed. It is necessary to add that at first malacologists erroneously concluded that Cheiloceras Trouessart, 1899 had a priority that had led to appearance of several invalid names proposed for Cheiloceras Frech, 1897 (see House and Kirchgasser 2008 for the discussion and references). This wrong conclusion was apparently caused by the matter that the last part of the three-volume monograph of Frech was published in 1902.

Additional curious concerning these generic taxa from mollusks and mites is that the mite taxon once more had appeared a junior homonym of the mollusk one. Haug (1899: 21, published by January) emended Cheiloceras Frech, 1897 for Chiloceras. In the same year, Canestrini (in: Canestrini and Kramer 1899: 69, published by April) emended Cheiloceras Trouessart, 1899 also for Chiloceras. Since the monograph by Canestrini and Kramer (1899) was published in April, Chiloceras Canestrini, 1899 had again appeared a junior homonym of Chiloceras Haug, 1899, although the latter was invalid. Otherwise the name Chiloceras Canestrini, 1899 might be used as a new name for the mite genus considered herein.

Therefore in the present work we propose a replacement name for Cheiloceras Trouessart, 1899.

SYSTEMATICS

Superfamily Pterolichoidea
Trouessart et Mégignon, 1884

Family Falculiferidae Oudemans, 1905

Genus Cheiloceratoidea
Mironov et Hallan nom. n.


Type species: Cheiloceras taurus Trouessart, 1899, by original designation.

Remark. When Trouessart (1899a) established the genus Cheiloceras, he described two species, Cheiloceras taurus Trouessart, 1899 and...
C. cervus Trouessart, 1899, and clearly indicated the first as a type species. In another paper published in the same year, Trouessart (1899b) described these genus and two species once more as new taxa and also described a new species C. retusum Trouessart, 1899, which was actually the only new taxon established in this paper; any type species of the “new” genus was not mentioned. Further, in the revision of feather mite genera, Trouessart (1916: 215) unexpectedly indicated C. cervus Trouessart, 1899 as a type species. It is possible to suggest that he either had illegitimately decided to change the type species or had forgotten that the type species had already been designated. Atyeo and Gaud (1978) making a revision of the genus Cheiloceras did not notice that Trouessart (1899a: 921) had already designated the type species in the primary paper, perhaps, because it was indicated in the text before the proper diagnosis of the genus. Therefore Atyeo and Gaud followed his revision of feather mite genera (Trouessart, 1916) and erroneously pointed C. cervus as a type species “by subsequent designation”.

Included species: Cheiloceratoides ancora-tum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. cervus (Trouessart, 1899) comb. n., Ch. cornulatum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. foliatum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. megachelicum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., Ch. retusum (Trouessart, 1899) comb. n., Ch. serrulatum (Atyeo et Gaud, 1978) comb. n., and Ch. taurus (Trouessart, 1899).

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REFERENCES