



**DEFINITION OF *Tenuipalpus SENSU STRICTO* (ACARI, TENUIPALPIDAE), WITH RE-DESCRIPTION OF *Tenuipalpus caudatus* (Dugès), THE TYPE SPECIES OF THE GENUS, AND DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES**

**DEFINIÇÃO DE *Tenuipalpus SENSU STRICTO* (ACARI, TENUIPALPIDAE), COM RE-DESCRIÇÃO DE *Tenuipalpus caudatus* (Dugès), A ESPÉCIE TIPO DO GÊNERO, E DESCRIÇÃO DE DUAS NOVAS ESPÉCIES**

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The genus *Tenuipalpus* Donnadieu (Tetranychoidae: Tenuipalpidae) includes over 300 described species loosely united by a suite of variable morphological characters. Novel interpretations of these characters, including body morphology and idiosomal and leg chaetotaxy, suggest *Tenuipalpus* is a paraphyletic group, as currently defined. In this study, we re-described *Tenuipalpus caudatus* (Dugès), the type species of the genus, based on specimens from Portugal intercepted in the United States during agricultural import inspection. This material included four female, one male and one protonymph specimens deposited in the Smithsonian Institution - USNM Insect & Mite Collection. Phase Contrast, Differential Interference Contrast and Low Temperature Scanning Electron Microscopy (LT-SEM) techniques were used to analyze and identify new morphological characters of the mites. The females were compared with photographic records of the neotype. In addition, we described *Tenuipalpus* **sp. nov.** 1 and *Tenuipalpus* **sp. nov.** 2 from Costa Rica and Brazil, respectively. We verified that *T. caudatus*, two new species, and another 35 known species of *Tenuipalpus* share the presence of prominent integumental projections anterior to the *sc2* setae and another pair of projections anterior to coxa III. Some of these species also share the presence of transverse and/or longitudinal hysterosomal crests. We defined *Tenuipalpus* sensu stricto based on these shared characters.

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