

**SUBGENUS *POLYATACIDES* LUNDBLAD, 1941 (ACARI: UNIONICOLIDAE:  
*UNIONICOLA* HALDEMAN)**

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**ABSTRACT** - The genus *Unionicola* Haldeman, 1842 contains 56 subgenera (Smit, 2008). The subgenus *Polyatacides* Lundblad, 1941a was originally created as a genus. Cook (1974) reduced the taxon to subgenus. Vidrine (1986a) eliminated the subgenus, and placed its only species, *U. prominens* Koenike, 1914, into the subgenus *Atacella* Lundblad, 1937. Vidrine (1996) resurrected the subgenus *Polyatacides* in the genus *Unionicola*. This paper supports that change and re-evaluates *Polyatacides*, *Atacella*, and *Berezatax* Vidrine 1986b: the three subgenera have dorsoventrally flattened pedipalps and form a distinctive *Artenkreis* of gill mites in the Americas.

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