Synonymy of the sand-mite genus *Straelensia* with the genus *Liuella* (Acariformes: Trombiculoidea)

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The sand-mite genus *Liuella* Wang & Bai, 1992 was erected in the tribe Trombiculini, subfamily Trombiculinae, family Trombiculidae. It was characterized by the rounded shield-shaped peniscutum (PSc) without an anteromedian projection (A=−), with 1AM and 2ALs; 2PLs off the scutum (Fig. 1); fSP=7.7.7; fcx=1.2.1; sternal setae numerous, arranged in three rows; with as many as 10 ventral humeral setae on either side, and SIF=4Bs-N-3-1000.0000. The genus was defined according to a single specimen, the holotype of *Liuella virtus* Wang & Bai, 1992. The slide was deposited in the Entomological Museum of the Institute of Zoology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The validity of this genus is in question because the generic diagnosis is identical to that of *Straelensia* Vercammen-Grandjean & Kolebinova, 1968 of the subfamily Apoloniinae (Leeuwenhoekiidae), except that an anteromedian projection or “nasus” is present in *Straelensia*.


In 1996, Wen *et al.* revised the generic characters of *Straelensia* as follows:

Apoloniiinae of small size. Legs short and slender, SIF=4Bs-B/N-3-1000.0000, IP=500-700. Peniscutum (PSc) with anteromedian projection (A=+) and anteromedian seta (AM=1). Legs I and II each with 2 tibialae, short, bacilliform, located apically on tibiae I and II (ti¹ or φ¹=2, ti² or φ²=2); single genuala (g¹ or σ¹=1) short, σ² and σ³=0; without tibiala III (ti³ or φ³=0), fg/ti³=1000; one microtibiala I (μti¹ or tiκ=1), but no microgenuala (μg or gκ=0) and no mastisetae on leg III (fm=0000). Eye lenses (Oc)=2/2, separated by epistrostral pleats. Coxa II with 2 coxalae (cx²=2), the external one being shorter. Body setae numerous, including sternal setae and ventral humeral setae.