

New records of water mites (Acari, Hydrachnidia) from Iran, with the description of one new species

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Abstract. Twenty-six species of water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) are recorded from Iran, 16 of which are new for the country. *Sperchon khayyami* n.sp. is described as new to science; the first description is given of the female of *Sperchon beckeri* Bader & Sepasgosarian, 1984.

Kurzfassung. Aus dem Iran werden 26 Arten von Wassermilben (Acari: Hydrachnidia) gemeldet, von denen 16 neu für das Land sind. *Sperchon khayyami* n.sp. wird als neu für die Wissenschaft beschrieben, und von *Sperchon beckeri* Bader & Sepasgosarian, 1984 wird erstmals das Weibchen beschrieben.

Key words. Acari, water mites, taxonomy, new species, Iran, Middle East.

Introduction

In view of the geographical location of Iran, a very rich fauna of water mites should be expected (SEPASGOSARIAN 1999). However, only 63 species have been reported so far by SEPASGOSARIAN (1999), PEŠIĆ & ASADI (2002) and ASADI et al. (2003a, 2003b). In this study, one new species is described, and further, 16 species are reported as new for the fauna of Iran.

For each of the species collected, the global pattern of distribution is given, followed by the new locality records. In addition, for some species information on habitat preference or taxonomic notes are provided. The synonymy of *Limnesia heteropora* Tuzovskij, 1997 with *L. undulata* (Müller, 1776) is proposed.

Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted on the spot from the live material, conserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. GERECKE 1991). Slide-mounted specimens and material preserved in fluid are lodged in the collection of the first author at the Museum of the Faculty of Sciences in Podgorica (Montenegro). Further material will be deposited in the Zoological Museum of the College of Agriculture of Tehran University in Karaj (Iran). In the „material“ section, collecting site abbreviations derive from a geographical database PEŠIĆ MS.

All measurements are given in μm . The composition of the material is given as: (males/females/deutonymphs), and the following abbreviations are used: I-L-6 = Leg 1, sixth segment, P-1 = palp, first segment, Cx-1 = first coxae, L = length, %L = relative dorsal length, vL = ventral length, W = width, H = height, n = number of specimens examined.